

Wabash Plain Dealer

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THURSDAY,
MARCH 12, 2020

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Shining light on Wabash County since 1859.

Tomorrow's weather

47 | 35



Pulse
of Wabash

Wabash Plain Dealer's new website now available

Check out our new website at www.wabashplaindealer.com and let us know what you think. If you had an account on our previous site, you will need to create a new account. If you registered with the same email address we will be able to locate your previous subscription as well. Once registered, you can also verify your subscription. Please contact web.support@wabashplaindealer.com with any questions. Thank you!

Wabash Plain Dealer's new office now open

The Wabash Plain Dealer's new office is now open on the second floor at 99 W. Canal St.

Film festival concludes Thursday at Manchester

Manchester University will present "Kinshasa Makambo" at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 12 in the Cordier Auditorium. The film is free and open to the public. The showing is part of the Tournées Film Festival, a series of six films by franco-phone directors.

Access Youth Center to feature music, discuss addiction

Blizz, a Christian rapper, open the event with a sampling of his songs before being joined by members of the local addictions panel from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Friday, March 13 at 74 W. Canal St. This will be free program for youth and families and is being co-sponsored by the Wabash County Subcommittee for Drug Prevention.

Create glass-on-glass framed mosaic image inspired by nature

The multi-day classes instructed by local stained glass artist Katy Gray will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. Friday, March 13; Monday, March 16; and Tuesday, March 17, at Salamonie Interpretive and Nature Center, 3691 New Holland Road, Andrews. Participants should plan to attend each meeting. The cost is \$60 per person. Each participant will choose one: either a bee, red-tailed hawk or box turtle for their project. All materials will be supplied. Call 260-468-2127 for registration or questions.

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Manchester not yet going online only due to COVID-19

Meanwhile, Purdue, IU move in-person classes online

By ROB BURGESS
Wabash Plain Dealer Editor

As both Indiana University and Purdue University have decided to move all face-to-face classroom instruction online due to concerns over COVID-19,

Manchester University will remain open for now.

In response to a Plain Dealer request Wednesday, Anne Gregory, assistant director of media relations in the Office of Strategic Communications at Manchester University, stated Dave McFadden, Manchester University president, had communicated the decision to students, faculty and staff Tuesday afternoon. However, Gregory stated

the Rotary Club of North Manchester has canceled its March 12 and 19 meetings.

"It will continue to monitor the COVID-19 situation and hopes to meet as scheduled on March 26 at the North Manchester Center for History," stated Gregory.

McFadden stated other Manchester University activities would continue as usual for the time being.

"Because of our

commitment to the needs of students and colleagues, Manchester University will continue normal operations. We are taking proactive precautions, communicating with government and health officials, and continually monitoring the situation. We ask all colleagues and students to register your travel to keep the university abreast of your spring break travel plans.

See MANCHESTER, page A6



Photo by Rob Burgess / Plain Dealer

At Monday's Wabash City Council meeting, Wabash Police Department (WPD) officer Kyle Lafferty was officially sworn in as sergeant by Mayor Scott Long.

WPD officer promoted

Sgt. Kyle Lafferty sworn in Monday by Mayor Scott Long

By ROB BURGESS
Wabash Plain Dealer Editor

At Monday's Wabash City Council meeting, Wabash Police Department (WPD) officer Kyle Lafferty was officially sworn

in as sergeant by Mayor Scott Long.

Lafferty, a lifelong resident of Wabash, was recently promoted to the position, according to Capt. Matt A. Benson, WPD public information officer.

Lafferty is a graduate of Wabash High School and served in the United States Marine Corps before joining the WPD in 2015.

Lafferty is a graduate of the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy Class 15-

207 and is currently and a law enforcement instructor for the department.

Lafferty is assigned to the second shift patrol.

Rob Burgess, Wabash Plain Dealer editor, may be reached by email at rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com.

Law office to hold grand opening downtown

Hunter Estate & Elder Law to host open house from 4 to 7 p.m. Thursday

By STAFF REPORT

Hunter Estate & Elder Law is hosting an open house for the community from 4 to 7 p.m. Thursday at 56 W. Market St. according to a press release.

This three-hour celebration will serve as the grand opening of their downtown law office.

Hunter Estate & Elder Law attorneys and partners Justin Schuhmacher and Jennifer Rozelle have invited Grow Wabash County board members, Mayor Scott Long and Grow Wabash County CEO Keith Gillenwater to conduct a ribbon-cutting ceremony at 4:30 p.m.

"The firm was founded in 2001 by Susan Hunter to help create custom plans for clients in areas of estate planning, asset protection, wills, trusts, Medicaid planning, veteran's benefits, long-term care planning, probate and trust administration, and probate avoidance. Hunter remains an active partner and primarily

serves of-counsel," stated the release. "The firm offers free consultations, provides a straight-forward fee schedule, and avoids the use of excessive legal jargon. The mission supports that new and returning clients can make the best decisions possible based on their unique needs."

For more firm events plan to visit the Wabash office:

■ From 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Thursday, April 9; and from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Thursday, June 11: Getting Your Ducks In A Row – "Join this free workshop to learn how you can protect against loss from lawsuits, nursing homes, or children's indiscretions, stated the release. For more information, visit www.hunterlawoffice.net/workshops.

■ From 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursday, June 18: Financial Advisor Continuing Education – This event will feature four hours of free CE credits. Register at www.hunterlawoffice.net/WabashCE.

For more information about Hunter Estate & Elder Law or services offered, call 260-274-7831 or visit www.hunterlawoffice.net.

Provided photo

Hunter Estate & Elder Law attorneys and partners Justin Schuhmacher and Jennifer Rozelle have invited Grow Wabash County board members, Mayor Scott Long and Grow Wabash County CEO Keith Gillenwater to conduct a ribbon-cutting ceremony at 4:30 p.m.

DUI checkpoint scheduled for Howard County

ISP will then conduct saturation patrols in Wabash, other nearby counties

By STAFF REPORT

Officers from the Indiana State Police (ISP) will conduct an enforcement checkpoint targeting impaired drivers in Howard County on Friday, March 13, according to a press release.

After the checkpoint, troopers will conduct roving saturation patrols seeking impaired drivers throughout the Indiana State Police Peru District which covers Cass, Fulton, Grant, Miami, Howard, Tipton and Wabash counties.

"The purpose of enforcement checkpoints is to remove impaired drivers from Indiana roadways before they cause needless pain, suffering or death to innocent victims," according to the release.

The ISP offers the following reminders:

■ Plan ahead and always designate a sober driver before consuming alcohol.

■ Don't drive a vehicle if you've been drinking alcohol. Call a ride service or a sober friend. A ride service is cheaper than a DUI arrest.

■ Take care of your friends. Never let a friend drive while impaired. Take their keys.

■ If you are hosting a party, offer non-alcoholic beverages. Make sure all of your guests leave with a sober driver.

■ Never provide alcohol to anyone under the legal drinking age of 21.

■ Drugged driving is impaired driving. If you are under the influence of alcohol or narcotics, don't drive.

"Motorists are encouraged to report suspected impaired drivers by calling 911. Give a vehicle description, location and direction of travel. Never follow an impaired driver," stated the release.

Six-State Trooper Project underway

ISP officers joining forces with five other surrounding states

By STAFF REPORT

The Indiana State Police will be joining forces this week with Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia State Police agencies, for what is known as the Six-State Trooper Project, according to a press release.

During this collaborative effort, troopers across northeast Indiana will be taking to the highways from Thursday to Saturday "with a primary focus on criminal interdiction through high volume traffic enforcement."

"During this period, motorists can expect to see an increased presence of our troopers on the roadsides

See ISP, page A2

Big events banned, NCAA tells fans to stay home over virus

By MARTHA BELLISLE, RACHEL LA CORTE and ADAM GELLER
Associated Press

SEATTLE — Undertaking the most sweeping efforts yet to contain the nation’s coronavirus outbreak, authorities banned large gatherings in the hard-hit Seattle area and San Francisco and closed Seattle’s schools Wednesday, while the NCAA announced it will hold March Madness basketball games around the country in near-empty arenas.

In a state where 29 victims have died — at least 22 from the same suburban Seattle nursing home — Washington Gov. Jay Inslee prohibited activities involving more than 250 people. The ban, encompassing an area of 4 million people, applies to houses of worship and baseball’s Seattle Mariners, whose home games will be moved.

“This is not just your ordinary flu,” Inslee said. “This demands a response consistent with the nature of the threat.”

In San Francisco, Mayor London Breed banned all gatherings of 1,000 or more people for the next two weeks in the city of 880,000, including Golden State Warriors basketball games. California’s Santa Clara County, home to San Jose and Silicon Valley, did the same.

The Seattle public school system, which has about 53,000 students, announced that it would close starting Thursday.

NCAA President Mark Emmert said the men’s and women’s Division I college basketball tournament games, scheduled to begin next week, will be closed to all but essential staff members and players’ families.

The all-out drive to encourage “social distancing” — the new catchphrase amid the crisis — unfolded as infections in the U.S. topped 1,000 and the death toll climbed to at least 37. The outbreak has spread to as many as 40 states, with Arkansas and New Mexico reporting their first cases of the virus Wednesday.

“Bottom line, it’s going to get worse,” Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, said on Capitol Hill.

As for how much worse, Fauci said that would depend on the ability of the U.S. to curtail the influx of travelers carrying the disease and state and community efforts to contain the outbreak. He said if mild cases of the virus are

counted, the mortality rate is probably about 1 percent — “roughly 10 times more lethal than the seasonal flu.”

Fears about the virus’s economic fallout dragged stocks down again. The Dow Jones Industrial Average lost more than 1,400 points, finishing 20 percent below its recent record high.

The plunge came as the World Health Organization declared the virus a pandemic, or serious global outbreak, with officials noting that the number of cases outside China increased 13-fold over the past two weeks.

Designating the crisis a pandemic is WHO’s way of putting countries on notice to take more aggressive action against the virus, which has infected nearly 125,000 people worldwide and killed almost 4,600.

In the U.S., the Seattle area has been hit hardest of all.

Dr. Jeff Duchin, public health officer with Seattle and King County, said the region is facing an unprecedented health emergency as the number of cases doubles every few days.

“We expect a large-scale outbreak in weeks, and this will be a very difficult time,” he said. “It’s similar to what you might think of as an infectious-disease equivalent of a major earthquake that’s going to shake us for weeks and weeks.”

Inslee said government will hold the authority to crack down on groups or individuals who ignore the directive, but added that he expects people will abide by the order. Asked about penalties for violations, he said: “The penalties are you might be killing your granddad if you don’t do it.”

Elsewhere around the country, Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear urged churches across the state to cancel services.

“I don’t believe that whether you go to church during this period of time is a test of faith,” he said. “I believe God gives us wisdom to protect each other and we should do that.”

Massachusetts is dealing with of cluster of at least 77 cases connected to a meeting held last month by biotech company Biogen at a hotel in Boston, while an outbreak of over 120 infections centered in the New York City suburb of New Rochelle prompted the closing of schools and houses of worship. Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced plans to send in the National Guard to sanitize public places and deliver food to

those who are quarantined.

Inside the anxiety-ridden New Rochelle containment zone, restaurant owner Joshua Berkowitz adopted what he called a “drop-and-dash” method of delivering food to customers, including many in quarantine.

“I’m afraid for their safety, and they’re afraid for my safety,” he said. “I don’t want to have contact with them.”

Penn State, Swarthmore, West Virginia’s Marshall University, the University of Virginia and the University of Wisconsin at Madison joined the rapidly expanding list of schools announcing plans to send students home and hold classes remotely.

Chicago canceled its St. Patrick’s Day parade, joining such cities as Boston and Philadelphia. Instead of hosting 100,000 at its twice-yearly conference in Salt Lake City next month, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints said it will hold the gathering online and on TV, with leaders delivering speeches without any attendees. The National Association of Broadcasters canceled its annual trade show, scheduled for April in Las Vegas. It typically draws 100,000 people.

For most people, the virus causes only mild or moderate symptoms such as fever and cough. For some, especially the elderly and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia. Most people recover in a matter of weeks.

Tests by U.S. government scientists and other experts found that the virus can live in the air for several hours and on some surfaces for two to three days.

Some airport workers are also dealing with the outbreak, with several Transportation Security Administration officers at the San Jose airport testing positive. All TSA employees who had contact with them over the past 14 days are being quarantined at home, the agency said.

In Oakland, California, restless passengers on a coronavirus-struck cruise ship awaited their turn to disembark. Efforts were underway to methodically take most of the 3,500 people on the Grand Princess off the ship and move them to quarantine in their home countries or at military bases in California, Texas and Georgia.

California Gov. Gavin Newsom strongly warned the elderly to stay away from cruise ships.

ISP

From page A1






conducting traffic stops. Drivers are encouraged to not drive distracted, and to be increasingly aware of the need to move over or slow down as required to give them the room to work safely,” stated the release. “Why target traffic violations to catch criminals? Troopers

understand that the criminal element, by and large, operates in a mobile environment. Criminals regularly must navigate our roadways while moving from point A to point B. By conducting large scale coordinated patrols such as the Six-State Trooper Project, we effectively create a bigger net for law enforcement to fish. We achieve safer roadways through increased

traffic enforcement, with an overall commitment to creating safer communities by getting criminals off the streets.”





Motorists who observe high-risk driving behavior, suspect impaired driving or suspect criminal activity are always encouraged to call 911, or call directly to the Indiana State Police Fort Wayne Post at 260-432-8661.

5-Day Weather Summary

 Thursday Few Showers 63 / 37	 Friday Mostly Sunny 47 / 35	 Saturday Scattered Rain 37 / 29	 Sunday Partly Cloudy 42 / 34	 Monday Mostly Cloudy 50 / 42
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Sun and Moon

Today's sunset 7:52 p.m.
Tomorrow's sunrise 8:02 a.m.

 Last 3/16	 New 3/24	 First 4/1	 Full 4/7
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Detailed Local Outlook

Today we will see mostly cloudy skies with a 55% chance of showers, high of 63°, humidity of 65%. South southeast wind 7 to 13 mph. Expect mostly cloudy skies tonight with a 60% chance of showers, overnight low of 37°. West southwest wind 8 to 17 mph. The wind chill for tonight could reach 32°.

Friend wants to distance self from woman stuck in past

DEAR HARRIETTE: My friend and I used to be very close until she moved back home to take care of her ailing mother (who has since died). Honestly, she seems stuck. She is of retirement age, though she still needs to work, so she does odd jobs here and there.

Whenever I talk to my friend, I hear the same things over and over. She lives in the past. I want to be there for her, but I am so exhausted by hearing the same old stories. What’s worse is that she doesn’t listen well.

So if I attempt to tell her about my day or tell her a story about something that happened, she listens for places to insert her old stories and jumps in without letting me complete a thought. It is annoying. Part of me wants to distance myself. Another part says I should tell her she’s bothering me rather than abandon her. I’m one of the only people she talks to. What do you recommend? — Clingy Friend

DEAR CLINGY FRIEND: The compassionate choice would be to have a heart-to-heart talk with her, preferably in person. Express your gratitude for reconnecting with her now that she is back home. Tell her you know how hard it has been for her to reacclimate, especially after her mother’s passing. Note that you enjoy talking to her, but that recently it has gotten hard. Then tell her why: She doesn’t listen well, so it doesn’t feel good when you are having a conversation, and she interrupts you all the time to insert her thoughts. Ask her to try to participate when talking to you rather than taking over the conversation. Ultimate-

Harriette Cole
Sense & Sensitivity



ly, you may also have to limit your chats with her, but at least telling her this may help her to make an effort to listen more.

DEAR HARRIETTE: My co-worker borrowed \$1,000 from me last year because she was in a bind. When I loaned it to her, we made a clear agreement that she would pay me back with monthly payments of \$100 until it is paid off. For the first couple of months, she honored that agreement, but for the past three months, she has given me nothing. When I have brought it up, she shrugs and says she doesn’t have it. But I see her going out for lunch and spending money on other things. I feel used. Can I tell my boss about this? What should I do? — Repay

a Loan
DEAR REPAY A LOAN: This was a deal between you and your co-worker, not your boss. Leave the boss out of it. But make it clear to your co-worker that you do not appreciate your trust being broken. Tell her that you loaned that money out of the goodness of your heart. Point out that you are not made of money. You can threaten to tell human resources, though you shouldn’t do it. The threat may get your co-worker to pay up.

Harriette Cole is a lifestyleist and founder of DREAMLEAP-ERS, an initiative to help people access and activate their dreams. You can send questions to askharriette@harriettecole.com or c/o Andrews McMeel Syndication, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, MO 64106.



Wabash Plain Dealer

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■ Classified: classifieds@wabashplaindealer.com

■ Legals: legals@wabashplaindealer.com

■ Retail: cbrown@wabashplaindealer.com

Newsroom

■ Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday:
8 a.m. - 6 p.m. Walk-in hours are from 9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

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■ Call: 260-563-2131

■ Email: news@wabashplaindealer.com

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READERS' CHOICE REPORTS

TUESDAY'S LOTTERIES

Cash 5
04-05-07-15-31
Estimated jackpot: \$141,500
Cash4Life
04-08-40-42-50, Cash Ball: 2
Daily Three-Midday
3-4-3, SB: 7
Daily Three-Evening
7-4-9, SB: 1
Daily Four-Midday
8-7-6-7, SB: 7
Daily Four-Evening
0-4-0-4, SB: 1
Mega Millions
06-17-48-54-69, Mega Ball: 12, Megaplier: 5
Estimated jackpot: \$75 million
Powerball
Estimated jackpot: \$110 million

WEDNESDAY'S METALS

Aluminum......75
Copper......2.49
Lead......84
Zinc......87
Gold......1,665.11
Silver......16.94
Platinum......878.79


AREA GRAIN

Estimated grain prices
Wednesday at Indianapolis-area elevators: Corn: \$3.96. Soybeans: \$8.75.

SEND A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Email letters to the editor to news@wabashplaindealer.com.





Roxy 5 Showtimes for Friday, March 6- Thursday, March 12

All showtimes have Closed Captioning available.

Onward in 2D (PG) Fri: 6:50 Sat-Sun: 1:35, 6:50 Mon-Thurs: 6:50	Impractical Jokers: The Movie (PG13) Fri: 7:00 Sat: 1:45, 7:00 Sun: 1:45, 7:00 Mon: 7:00 Wed: 7:00	The Call of the Wild (PG) Fri: 6:20, 9:25 Sat: 1:10, 4:10, 6:20, 9:25 Mon-Thurs: 6:20
Onward in RealD 3D (PG) Fri: 8:45 Sat: 3:50, 8:45 Sun: 3:50	Fantasy Island (PG13) Fri: 9:35 Sat: 4:20, 9:35 Sun: 4:20 Tues: 7:00 Thurs: 7:00	Sonic the Hedgehog (PG) Fri: 6:40, 9:05 Sat: 1:10, 4:00, 6:40, 9:05 Sun: 1:20, 4:00, 6:40 Mon-Thurs: 6:40

The Invisible Man (R)
Fri: 6:30, 9:15
Sat: 1:00, 3:45, 6:30, 9:15
Sun: 1:00, 3:45, 6:30
Mon-Thurs: 6:30

For more information please call
765-460-5322
or visit us online at www.roxyperu.com
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Wabash Plain Dealer



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Obituaries

PENDING SERVICES

Lucas Cruz 63: of LaFontaine, passed away on Mar. 10, 2020. Services are pending and have been entrusted to McDonald Funeral Home, LaFontaine Chapel.

Payroll company owner gets 6 years for client fraud

ST. LOUIS (AP) — An Indiana payroll company owner was sentenced Tuesday to six years in federal prison and ordered to pay back nearly \$9 million for a scheme that defrauded clients. David L. Downey, 51, of Indianapolis, pleaded guilty in August to wire fraud, federal employment tax evasion and passport fraud. He was sentenced in U.S. District Court in St. Louis. Clients from Missouri, Indiana and Kentucky were victims of his scheme. Federal prosecutors said Downey stole money from clients of his company, Time Payroll, from 2013 to 2017. He was arrested in 2018 with fake identification and nearly \$1 million in cash at a California hotel, where he used his brother's name to try and get a passport, the U.S. Attorney's office said. Downey has already repaid some of the \$9.4 million taken from clients but still owes them \$8.8 million.

Biden victorious in 4 more primary states

By **WILL WEISSERT** and **LAURIE KELLMAN**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Joe Biden decisively won Michigan's Democratic presidential primary, seizing a key battleground state that helped propel Bernie Sanders' insurgent candidacy four years ago. The former vice president's victory there, as well as in Missouri, Mississippi and Idaho, dealt a serious blow to Sanders and substantially widened Biden's path to the nomination. Biden again showed strength Tuesday with working-class voters and African Americans, who are vital to winning the Democratic nomination. Sanders won North Dakota and awaited results from Washington state. Washington's primary was too early to call, and because all votes there are cast by mail or by dropping them off in a ballot box, many ballots were marked for candidates who have since dropped out of the race. The six-state contest Tuesday marked the first time voters weighed in on the primary since it effectively narrowed to a two-person race between Sanders and Biden. And the first four states on Tuesday went to Biden, a dramatic reversal for a campaign that appeared on the brink of collapse just two weeks ago. Now it is Sanders, whose candidacy was ascendant so recently, who must contemplate a path forward. He said at a news conference in Vermont on Wednesday afternoon that he will stay in the race and plans to appear at the

Democratic debate against Biden on Sunday. Addressing supporters in Philadelphia, Biden noted that many had "declared that this candidacy was dead" only days ago, but "now we're very much alive." He also asked Sanders supporters to back him going forward. "We need you, we want you, and there's a place in our campaign for each of you. I want to thank Bernie Sanders and his supporters for their tireless energy and their passion," Biden said. "We share a common goal, and together we'll beat Donald Trump." Even as the contours of the race came into shape, however, new uncertainty was sparked by fears of the spreading coronavirus. Both candidates abruptly canceled rallies in Ohio that were scheduled for Tuesday night. Sanders' campaign also said all future events would be decided on a case-by-case basis given public health concerns, while Biden called off a scheduled upcoming Florida stop. He also announced that Friday and Monday stops in Florida and Illinois would be turned into virtual events. Still, the former vice president said Tuesday night that he'd be announcing plans to combat the coronavirus later this week. The Democratic National Committee also said that Sunday's debate between Sanders and Biden would be conducted without an audience. Among former White House hopefuls and leaders of powerful liberal groups, however, Biden's momentum is now undeniable. Bradley Beychok, president

and co-founder of American Bridge 21st Century, a liberal super PAC, said his group "will be ALL IN to elect @JoeBiden as our next president." The organization is spending millions of dollars trying to win over people who backed President Donald Trump in key states in 2016. Guy Cecil, chairman of the flagship Democratic outside political organization Priorities USA, tweeted: "The math is now clear. Joe Biden is going to be the Democratic nominee for President and @prioritiesUSA is going to do everything we can to help him defeat Donald Trump in November." There were other major warning signs for Sanders on Tuesday. He again struggled to win support from black voters. About 70 percent of Mississippi's Democratic primary voters were African American, and 86 percent of them supported Biden, according to an AP VoteCast survey of the electorate. After Sanders upset Hillary Clinton in Michigan four years ago, his loss there Tuesday was particularly sobering. It undermined his argument that he could appeal to working-class voters and that he could expand the electorate with new young voters. One of the few bright notes for Sanders was his strength among young voters, but even that has a downside because they didn't turn out enough to keep him competitive. Sanders won 72 percent of those under 30 in Missouri and 65 percent in Michigan, according to AP VoteCast. The senator was also about even with Biden among voters ages 30

to 44. Sanders' mathematical path to winning enough delegates for the nomination is rapidly disappearing. Sanders now needs 57 percent of the delegates not won so far to get to 1991, the magic number to win the nomination. Both delegate allocation math and voting history show how unlikely it is for Sanders to hit that goal and overtake Biden. "There's no sugarcoating it. Tonight's a tough night," New York Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, one of Sanders' highest-profile supporters, said on Instagram. "Tonight's a tough night for the movement overall. Tonight's a tough night electorally." Another top Sanders backer, Minnesota Rep. Ilhan Omar, tweeted: "Yes we are a family, united in restoring our democracy and committed to defeating Trump, but that doesn't mean we should stop fighting for the candidate that best represents our policy priorities in this Primary." According to an Associated Press analysis, Biden picked up at least 184 new delegates in Tuesday's voting while Sanders got 112. Biden now has 864 overall, while Sanders has 710. Although six states voted, Michigan, with its 125 delegates, got most of the attention. Trump won the state by only 10,704 votes during the general election, his closest margin of victory among Michigan, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin. Those states gave Trump the narrow edge in the 2016 Electoral College after Clinton won the popular vote. In addition to the

powerful groups now siding with Biden, the former vice president has picked up the endorsements of many of his former presidential rivals, including Sen. Kamala Harris, Sen. Cory Booker and entrepreneur Andrew Yang. Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, sometimes mentioned as a possible vice presidential choice, also endorsed Biden and campaigned with him. But not every Democrat was lining up behind Biden. Michigan Rep. Debbie Dingell, who represents a sprawling district from the college town of Ann Arbor to the Detroit suburbs, said Tuesday that she's staying neutral. "I remember what it was like four years ago and the vitriol and the anger, the people mad at each other the whole election cycle. We can't afford that," Dingell said. "It's about getting out and voting in November." Neither Biden nor Sanders has public events scheduled for Wednesday. And although Biden is celebrating a growing delegate lead, he's still confronting voters who question his positions, which include a gun control plan that reinstates an assault weapons ban and includes a voluntary buyback program for assault weapons. That issue was at the center of a testy exchange with a worker while Biden was rallying earlier Tuesday in Detroit. The man accused him of "actively trying to end our Second Amendment right." Biden shot back, "You're full of shit," but went on to say that while he supports the Second Amendment, "Do you need 100 rounds?"

PULSE

From page A1

Laketon American Legion Auxiliary Unit 402 plans dinner
The Laketon American Legion Auxiliary Unit 402 has planned a dinner from 4:30 to 7 p.m. Friday, March 13 at the Bluebird Cafe, 15 N. Main St., Laketon. The menu will include a choice of fish, shrimp, beef and noodles, meatloaf, potatoes, salad and drink. The cost is \$8. Pie is \$2. Carry-outs will be available.

Komets game to celebrate Wabash County March 13
Wabash County will be the MVP during the third annual Wabash County Night at the Fort Wayne Komets game at 8:05 p.m. Friday, March 13 at the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum, 4000 Parnell Ave., Fort Wayne. While supplies last, tickets can be bought for \$15 per ticket at <https://groupmatics.events/event/Wabashcommunity3> or by emailing Mitch Meinholtz at mitch@komets.com or by calling 260-482-6812.

'Can we talk?' event planned for March 14
The show "Can we talk?" is scheduled for 7 p.m. Saturday, March 14 at Manchester Church of the Brethren, 1306 Beckley St., North Manchester. The event is free to the public. A freewill donation will go toward Heifer International. For more information about the event, call 260-982-7523 or visit www.manchestercob.net.

Intermediate two-day stained-glass scheduled
A two-day intermediate class instructed by local stained-glass artist Katy Gray will be held from 1 to 3:30 p.m. Saturday, March 14 and Sunday, March 15 at Salamonie Interpretive and

Nature Center, 3691 New Holland Road, Andrews. All participants of this class must have had recent, prior stained glass cutting and smoothing experience. The cost is \$40. The project will be a bee on a coneflower. Call 260-468-2127 for registration or questions.

St. Trolley's Day Tour on sale
Visit Wabash County has announced that tickets for the St. Trolley's Day Tour happening on March 14 are available for purchase. Tour times offered are 6, 6:30 or 7 p.m. and will last about two hours. The St. Trolley's Day Tour is \$25 per person and all-inclusive. To register for this tour, visit www.VisitWabashCounty.com and click on Tours/Trolley Rental. You may also stop in the Welcome Center at 221 S. Miami St., or call 260-563-7171. Tickets are \$25 per person and is due upon registration. You must be 21 or older to participate in this tour.

Wabash Kiwanis Club's Pancake Day returns in March
The Wabash Kiwanis Club will host its annual Pancake Day fundraiser, the service organization's biggest annual fundraiser, from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, March 14, at the Bob Elrod Exhibit Hall, located just off of Gillen Avenue at the Wabash County 4-H Fairgrounds. The event's Pancake Eating Contest will return and will start at noon. Tickets are \$7 in advance and \$8 at the door for adults (13 and older) and \$4 in advance and \$5 at the door for children ages 6-12. Children 5 and younger eat for free. Tickets are available from Wabash Kiwanis members. Those who have questions can contact Mike Keaffaber at keaffaberm@msdwc.k12.in.us.

Wabash County Genealogical Society to meet
The speaker for the next meeting of the Wabash County Genealogical Society will be Allison Singleton from the Allen County Library's Genealogy Center. The meeting will begin at 6 p.m. Monday, March 16 at The Woman's Clubhouse, 770 W. Hill St. The topic of the presentation will be "Out of the Box Questions and the Methodology of Answering Them." Meetings are always open to the public.

Beacon Credit Union to hold 89th Annual Shareholders Meeting
The 89th Annual Shareholders Meeting of Beacon Credit Union will be held at 7 p.m. Monday, March 16, in the Honeywell Center's Ford Theater, according to a press release. Doors will open for registration at 6 p.m. Those in attendance will receive a door prize and be registered for a prize drawing to be held at the end of the business meeting. This is an event for the entire family to attend. Roller-skating will be available in the Honeywell Center's Roller Skating Rink for children. For those children who are too young to skate, a childcare room will be available as well. Both will be staffed by Beacon Credit Union personnel and will be free to all credit union members.

Lt. Col. Kuester to speak at MSD's 31st annual Academic Honors Banquet
Lt. Col. Christopher M. Kuester, a 1992 Southwood High School graduate, will address the academic honorees of MSD of Wabash County during the annual Academic Honors Banquet at 7:15 p.m. Tuesday, March 17 at the Honeywell Center in Legacy Hall. Hospital plans open house From 5:30 to 7 p.m. Thursday, March 26, guests will be treated to a behind-the-scenes tour of the Radiology and Lab Services areas, where they can meet clinical co-workers and other team members. Parkview Wabash Foundation is sponsoring the event, along with a second open house from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, May 13, 5:30 to 7 p.m., for people who are unable to attend on March 26. Guests should arrive at the main hospital entrance, 10 John Kissinger Drive, where they will be greeted when they enter the lobby. No reservations are needed. For more information, call Tracy Bostwick at 260-569-

Room, 350 Wedcor Ave. The Mental Health First Aid program is open to any adult. For more information, visit www.extension.purdue.edu/mhfa or contact Mindy Mayes by email at mayes7@purdue.edu or by phone at 260-663-0661 ext. 1408.

Farmers market season set to begin
Applications are open to potential vendors. Vendors are accepted for a full season, half-season and one-time rates. An informational call-out meeting will occur at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 18 inside Chapman's Taproom, 233 S. Miami St. Downtown Wabash Farmers Market opens from 8 a.m. to noon Saturday, May 16 in the Honeywell Center/Wabash Elk's Parking Lot. The market occurs every Saturday through Sept. 26. If you are interested in becoming a vendor or volunteering at the event, call 260-563-0975 or visit www.wabashmarketplace.org.

NMCH to host Smithsonian traveling exhibit
The North Manchester Center for History will be hosting the Smithsonian's traveling exhibit, "Crossroads: Change in Rural America" from March 21 to May 3. Hospital plans open house From 5:30 to 7 p.m. Thursday, March 26, guests will be treated to a behind-the-scenes tour of the Radiology and Lab Services areas, where they can meet clinical co-workers and other team members. Parkview Wabash Foundation is sponsoring the event, along with a second open house from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, May 13, 5:30 to 7 p.m., for people who are unable to attend on March 26. Guests should arrive at the main hospital entrance, 10 John Kissinger Drive, where they will be greeted when they enter the lobby. No reservations are needed. For more information, call Tracy Bostwick at 260-569-

2254 or Krys Henderson at 260-569-2435.

Tour and visit St. Bernard Elementary School during March
Tour and visit St. Bernard Elementary School from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. any Monday or Wednesday during March at 191 N. Cass St. The school is enrolling grades pre-kindergarten through sixth grades. For more information call Pam Dyer at 260-563-5746.

Manchester invites high school students to submit compositions
The Manchester University Department of Music seeks high school composers for its first Composition Workshop and Reading Session on Wednesday, April 8. They are invited to submit original compositions to be performed and recorded by Manchester University faculty musicians. The deadline is March 23. Send submissions to Reed at tmreed@manchester.edu. Submissions should include a score (PDF or Finale file); contact information with name, phone number and mailing address; and name of high school currently attending. There is no fee to submit. Selected composers will be contacted with details about the evening event via email.

Celebrate Ivy Tech in Wabash at Monopoly Night
Ivy Tech Community College is hosting its 11th annual Wabash Monopoly Night from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Friday, April 24 in the Parkview Health Ballroom of Eagles Theatre, 106 W. Market St. This event is open to the community. Guests must RSVP by April 15 to Laura Leichty by email at lleichty@ivytech.edu or by phone 260-481-2243.

Comedian Michael Palascak to perform at Lagro benefit event
"Dia de Lagro" will take place Tuesday, May 5 at the Eads Barn, 4725 E. 200 North, Urbana. Appetizers, cocktails, singer Kimberly Rutledge and Emcee Reed Christiansen are set to begin at 5:30 p.m. A Mexican-themed dinner, catered by Gallery 64, will begin at 6 p.m. with comedian Michael Palascak taking the stage at 7 p.m. Tickets for the event are \$75 each, \$125 per couple or \$500 for a table of eight. For more information, visit lagrocanalfoundation.com. Those interested in donating prizes for the silent auction or would like to become a main sponsor may email lagrocanalfoundation@gmail.com.

Manchester University to honor Steve Ford at 2020 Commencement
Manchester University will honor Steve Ford, president and chief executive officer of the Ford Meter Box, on Saturday, May 16, at both the morning and afternoon commencement exercises.

WCPL plans summer reading, 'Bash Con
'Bash Con is set to last from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday, June 26 at 188 W. Hill St. 'Bash Con's theme for this year is "Imagine Your Story" and free booth space is available for artists and vendors. Amateur artists are encouraged and welcomed. To register, visit <https://www.wabash.lib.in.us/bash-con>. For more information, call 260-563-2972.

Editor's note: If you have an upcoming event to submit, please send it by email to news@wabashplaindealer.com no later than five days before the event itself. Please use complete sentences, Associated Press style and Microsoft Word or PDF file formats.

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Opinion

SPEAK UP

How to contact
your legislators:

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B33 Russell Senate
Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
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<http://young.senate.gov/contact>

U.S. Sen. Mike Braun, R-Ind.
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202-224-4814
<http://braun.senate.gov/>

U.S. Rep. Jackie Walorski, R-District 2
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202-225-3915

State Sen. Andy Zay, R-District 17
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LETTERS GUIDELINES

The Wabash Plain Dealer encourages your letters to the editor forum, which is designed to be a forum for exchange of ideas between readers about issues of community importance.

Please sign your letter. Your name will be used with the letter that is published in the Plain Dealer. Your letter will be returned if it is your desire to remain anonymous.

Since we may want to write or call you to verify the letter, we ask that you include your address and telephone number. All our letters to the editor are published in the interest of fair play, so we trust our letter writers will refrain from personal attacks on other persons or groups.

A letter should be less than two pages long, preferably of double-spaced typing.

In order to give everyone an opportunity to participate in this exchange of ideas, please try to limit your letters to one per month per household.

To submit a letter, please write the Wabash Plain Dealer at 99 W. Canal St., Wabash, IN 46992.

Letters also may be hand-delivered to the newspaper office, 99 W. Canal St. The office is open 9-11:30 a.m. and 1-4 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you should deliver a letter during non-business hours, a drop slot is located to the left of the front door. Letters may be faxed to 260-563-0816, or email them to news@wabashplainedealer.com with "Letters to the Editor" in the subject line.



DAILY SCRIPTURE

Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.

1 John 4:4

Worsening global crisis requires a global response

Viruses are borderless. And given international economic integration, so are oil and equity markets, both of which were routed worldwide on Monday.

Two separate yet interrelated events occurred: Saudi Arabia announced a big oil production increase after Russia refused to take part in an OPEC accord meant to cut supply. The result was a 24 percent plunge in oil prices, which were already dropping due to deteriorating economic conditions related to the intensifying coronavirus crisis roiling the world.

The quick price collapse – which will impact already beleaguered countries such as Venezuela and Iran, the latter of which is an epicenter of the coronavirus outbreak – rolled right into global equity markets. European stocks were down 7 percent and have now entered a bear market, and Asian equities were hit hard too, led by a 5 percent decline in Japan.

The price action also spread to Wall Street. Although trading was halted to prevent a panicked sell-off, the Dow was down nearly 8 percent, as was the broader S&P 500 index. The declines were due in part to the

energy sector meltdown, to be sure. But more broadly they reflected the fear, if not likelihood, of a global economic contraction that could rival the Great Recession.

Policymakers have hopefully learned lessons from that panic. And in fact the Federal Reserve moved Monday to boost short-term lending, and the New York Fed said it would follow suit to mitigate strain on the banking system.

Much more will be needed, and indeed more flares from the financial sector about liquidity concerns were sent up on Monday. The Fed, led by professionals who generally eschew the amateurish rhetoric coming from other quarters in Washington, will likely respond responsibly.

But because this is a global health, economic and – increasingly – governance crisis, more than a national response is needed. International institutions, widely derided in this populist era, need to work cohesively to mitigate the current and coming disruptions to keep the crisis from becoming a panic.

Under both Republican and Democratic administrations, the U.S. has traditionally led

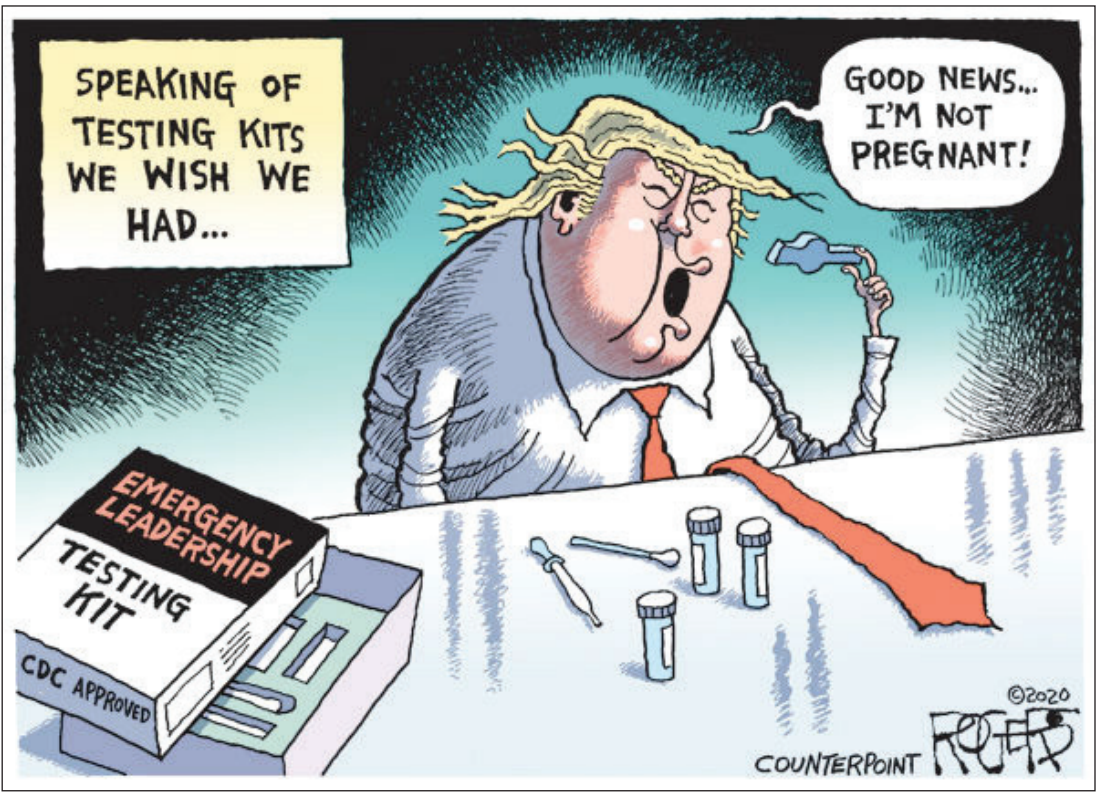
such responses. These are not traditional times, though, and President Donald Trump's performance has been anything but reassuring.

Instead, he took to Twitter Monday to pronounce the oil-sector collapse as "Good for the consumer, gasoline prices are coming down!" Never mind that it will hit energy workers hard and that it has also been caused by the imploding global travel industry. Trump also tweeted that "Saudi Arabia and Russia are arguing over the price and flow of oil. That, and the Fake News is the reason for the market drop!"

The news – including reporting on the administration's botched response in the initial phase of the coronavirus outbreak – is real. Trump's pledge to pursue payroll tax cuts, assistance for hourly wage earners, and help for travel-related industries is a tacit acknowledgment of the seriousness of the situation.

The president should quit his misinformation campaign and, backed by bipartisan consensus in Congress, urge that world leaders work together on a coordinated crisis response.

This editorial was first published in the Star Tribune.



African Americans rescued the Democratic Party

In recent decades, old-style king-makers faded from American politics. This year, though, there are hundreds of thousands of them: the African American voters across the South who gave Joe Biden a lead in the race for the Democratic nomination.

Eugene Robinson



Kingmaker-in-chief is House Majority Whip James Clyburn, D-S.C., whose emotional, full-throated endorsement last week lifted Biden to a landslide in a state where black voters make up

more than half of the Democratic electorate. After Clyburn weighed in, what had been a confusing picture – Would younger African Americans turn out in droves for Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt.? Was billionaire Tom Steyer's barrage of television ads across the state winning him votes? – suddenly became crystal clear. Biden ended up winning 61 percent of the black vote in South Carolina, according to exit polls. But what happened three days later, on Super Tuesday, was even more impressive – and perhaps, in the contest for the nomination, definitive.

Biden won 69 percent of the black vote in Virginia, about 60 percent in Texas and North Carolina, and a staggering 72 percent in Alabama. Those margins helped him build a lead in pledged convention delegates that will be hard for Sanders to erase, especially with populous and delegate-rich Southern states such as Florida and Georgia yet to vote.

There appeared to be some regional and generational dif-

ferences in which candidates black voters prefer. Biden won the African American vote by considerably smaller margins in California, Massachusetts and Minnesota. Exit polls suggested that, in keeping with his strength among young voters, Sanders likely beat Biden among black voters under 30. But Biden won the overall black vote everywhere. Black America, it would seem, has made up its mind.

Black America is not a monolith. But despite their growing economic, social and cultural diversity, African Americans have remained a strikingly unified voting bloc and make up the most loyal constituency among the Democratic Party's base. Hispanic voters are more divided: in the 2018 midterms, 29 percent of Hispanic voters backed Republican candidates. Sanders won those voters on Super Tuesday, especially in heavily Latino states such as Colorado and California. Overall, Sanders won the Latino vote by an average of 9 percentage points.

Among black voters, Biden is clearly helped by having run and served with former president Barack Obama. My guess is that a new Sanders television ad that seeks to make it look as if Sanders and Obama were bosom buddies – when in fact they have had sharp ideological differences – will be seen by many black voters as insulting. Anyone who thinks African Americans are low-information voters has never been to a black church, barber shop, hair salon, restaurant or college campus in the weeks before an election. Nobody is going to pull any wool over black voters' eyes.

"I know Joe. We know Joe. But most importantly, Joe knows

us," Clyburn said in his Feb. 26 endorsement. That was taken as a reference to Biden's long history as a public servant, his years as Obama's vice president and his frequent visits to South Carolina. But I took "Joe knows us" as an appeal to the essential pragmatism of African American voters. We are not in the habit of chasing rainbows.

Jesse Jackson won in South Carolina during his 1984 and 1988 presidential runs, but those votes – in what was then a Democratic caucus – were seen as symbolic. No one thought he would actually win the nomination. Mainstream candidates Bill Clinton, Al Gore, John Edwards won the state's primary in subsequent election years, and in 2008 Hillary Clinton was shown by polls to be cruising to an easy victory – until Obama won the Iowa caucuses. Then everything changed.

When it became clear that Obama could win in an overwhelmingly white state like Iowa, and thus might actually win a general election, black voters in South Carolina turned on a dime. Clyburn didn't actually endorse Obama before the 2008 primary but left the distinct impression that he wanted to. Obama won that contest. We know the rest.

Clyburn's message seemed to clarify things for black South Carolina voters, who were trying to figure out how best to defeat President Trump. The landslide those voters gave to Biden seemed to clarify things for black voters in the Super Tuesday states. If Biden is nominated and wins in November, African Americans will have picked a president.

Eugene Robinson's email address is eugenerobinson@washpost.com.

Do Hoosiers need 5G?

By BARRY P. KEATING

Turn on the television, and every third add is for something called 5G. The adds say that 5G is fast, reliable, and the next "must-have" technology. But what is 5G, and do you need it?

Your current smartphone is probably a 4G device. That is, it uses 4th generation cellular technology. 3G preceded 4G, and about the only difference, you might have noticed when you purchased your latest phone was that the time for loading web-pages seemed to decrease. So, maybe 5G will decrease the wait time even further. Is that all there is to 5G – a speed increase?

Well, "Yes," it will increase the speed of your communications and "No," there is a lot more to 5G than simply an increase in speed. 5G is the next generation of telecommunications protocols (i.e., the rules by which your device and my device communicate with one another and any network). The rollout of 5G networks and the devices that can use them is in its infancy. The phone you have now will not be able to use 5G; your current phone and any other current device will require, not an upgrade, but a replacement. The replacement devices will be expensive at first. At the moment there is only a single commercially available 5G phone; that will change this year. Is speed so important that you will need to toss your old devices in the next few years and purchase an expensive new ones that will essentially perform the same functions?

The answer is a bit ambiguous. The solution as to whether to upgrade or keep the old device is a timing decision. You will upgrade sooner or later because 5G and 4G are significantly different from one another. It is not just a speed increase that separates these two standards. 5G is poised to unleash a massive IoT (Internet of Things) ecosystem in which billions of devices (not just smartphones) are connected and trading information instantaneously.

This speed increase will affect every Hoosier whether you personally upgrade your phone or not. Interactions with the medical community, the safety provided by your police agencies, and how you receive your entertainment will all change with 5G.

So what exactly will change? Some changes are easy to predict with high accuracy; other changes are probably unforeseen at this time. For certain, health-care monitoring systems will become much more robust, more autonomous and more frequently used; the ways in which we interact with healthcare providers is due for a sea change. Also certain is that driverless vehicles of all types will become both more common and more capable than the current versions. Note that in both the healthcare and the transportation industries, jobs will be different; Hoosiers cannot assume that every current job will be here 10 years from now. These two industries are just the tip of the iceberg in terms of industries affected by 5G; almost every industry will be affected in some manner. But, why is this different than the rather unnoticed move from 3G to 4G?

Isn't it just a speed difference? Why would speedier web browsing make much of a difference in day-to-day life for Hoosiers?

The answer lies not only in the degree of change in the speed of telecommunications but in the opportunities that speed change affords us. Let's consider a concrete. Imagine a household streaming five different videos while family members browse the Internet on ten different devices. Most communities in Indiana have a single cable television provider.

In South Bend, it's Comcast; they are a monopoly provider of cable services and take full advantage of that position. This is the provider connection these family members would be sharing in South Bend. With 5G, however, an alternative will become available; without any physical cable, a small antenna will be capable of receiving everything coming down your current cable (television channels as well as Internet services) at a significantly faster rate than you now receive and with 99.999 percent availability. If that happens (and it will) how do you suppose Comcast will respond to the faster, more reliable, and easier to install competition. It's a good guess that prices for like services will decrease, and reliability of service will increase; competition breeds good results for consumers.

For every Hoosier community, this new delivery technology will require rethinking how to structure government regulations and policies that will either hinder or neutrally treat the new opportunity. Do we still need community ordinances to regulate cable television and the Internet if there are numerous non-cable providers of the same service? What types of policies are appropriate for users of autonomous vehicles? Will healthcare services, especially diagnostic services, be permitted to deliver services digitally?

5G is not something to fear, but it is also not something that we can ignore. It is time to at least begin to examine how we will treat the changes that are coming and to alter what will be antiquated policies and regulations. The game has changed.

Barry P. Keating, Ph.D., an adjunct scholar of the Indiana Policy Review Foundation, is Emeritus Professor of Finance, University of Notre Dame.

Food

Welcome spring with a lemony risotto

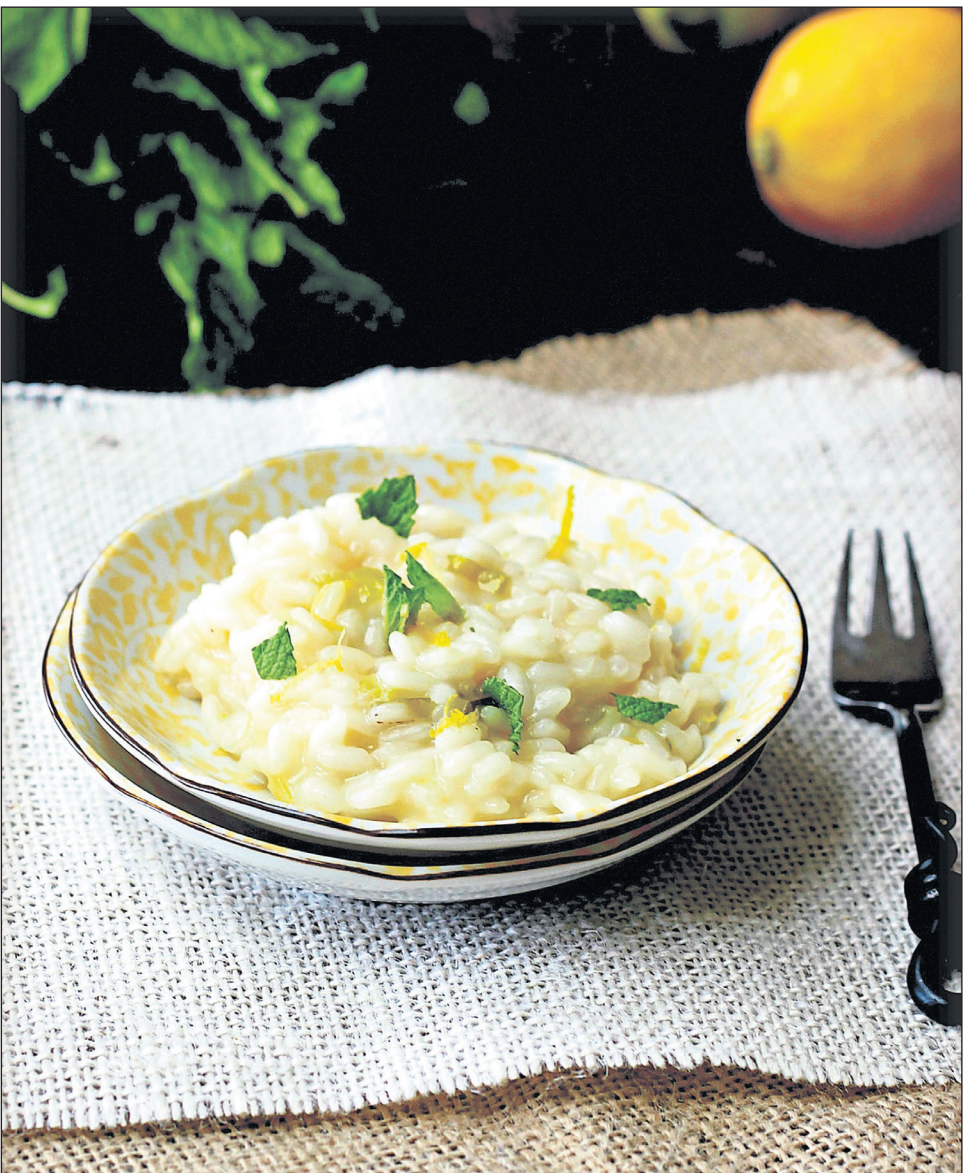
By LYNDA BALSLEV

Here is what I think about risotto: A good risotto should be creamy, but not gummy or soupy. The rice should be tender, with a little give to each bite (al dente). Any accompanying ingredients should be minimal without muddying, and ideally, they should reflect the season. This risotto checks all of those boxes.

It's firmly planted in spring with a lemony brightness and pucker that cuts through risotto's inherent richness. Flecks of fresh mint and lemon zest add color and a fragrant whiff of garden-fresh flavor. The finished dish is creamy and elegant without being heavy. You can easily dig into a steaming bowl of this risotto and call it a meal, but it also makes a simple first course or side dish to meat and fish.

When making risotto, there are a few rules to follow for success. For a traditional risotto, you will need to purchase arborio, an Italian rice grain known for its high starch content, which creates a creamy risotto. Be sure to lightly toast the rice grains before adding any liquid. This step creates a protective shell around each grain, which prevents the rice from bursting or becoming soggy while cooking.

And yes, you must continually stir the rice while it cooks. This will prevent the rice from sticking to the pan and burning while cooking, and it will help to release the starch from the rice grains, which develops the risotto's creaminess. This may sound labor-intensive, but the process should take only 20 to 25 minutes, and it you'll get to take pride of accomplishment in the finished result. It's also a window of time when the only task at hand is to concentrate on the rhythm of stirring – which in itself might be considered a simple pleasure – yielding delicious results.



Provided photo by Lynda Balslev for Tastefood

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Lemon Risotto with Mint

Active Time: about 30 minutes
Total Time: about 30 minutes
Yield: Serves 4 to 6

- 6 cups chicken stock
- 2 tablespoons unsalted butter, divided
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 small yellow onion, finely chopped, about 1/2 cup
- 2 cups arborio rice
- 1/2 cup dry white wine
- 1/2 cup (packed) finely grated Parmesan cheese
- 2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice
- 1 tablespoon finely chopped mint leaves, plus more for garnish

- 2 teaspoons finely grated lemon zest, plus extra for garnish
- 1/2 teaspoon salt, or more to taste
- 1/4 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper

Bring the stock to a simmer in a medium saucepan. Reduce the heat to low and keep warm.

Heat 1 tablespoon butter and the oil in a deep skillet or pot over medium heat. Add the onion and saute until soft and translucent, about 4 minutes. Stir in the rice and cook until the rice is well coated and slightly toasted, stirring constantly, 1 to 2 minutes.

Add the wine and stir until the wine is absorbed, about 1

minute.

Add 1 cup stock and stir until the liquid is absorbed. Continue adding the stock, 1/2 cup at a time, stirring until the liquid is absorbed before adding the next 1/2 cup, until the rice is al dente and the risotto is creamy. (Depending on the age of the rice, you may not use all of the stock. Older rice requires more liquid to cook.)

Remove the pan from the heat and stir in the remaining 1 tablespoon butter and the cheese. Stir in the lemon juice, mint, zest, salt and black pepper, and taste for seasoning.

Serve immediately, garnished with additional mint and lemon zest.

Houston Livestock and Rodeo will be shut down

HOUSTON (AP) — The Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, which draws hundreds of thousands of visitors, will be canceled about halfway through its run as a precaution against the new coronavirus, city and county officials said Wednesday.

Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner and Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo said they would be issuing emergency health declarations to slow the spread of COVID-19.

Rodeo organizers said the event grounds will close at 4 p.m. Wednesday and that they are working on a ticket refund process.

"This is a decision that does not come easily, but the health and safety of people in our region is paramount," Turner said.

Officials said they made the decision after news Tuesday of a positive case in nearby Montgomery County that indicated community spread was happening, when a person contracts an illness from an unknown source.

For most people, the new coronavirus causes only mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia.

The vast majority of people recover from the new virus. According to the World Health Organization, people with mild illness recover in about two weeks, while those with more severe illness may take three to six weeks to recover. In mainland China, where the virus first exploded, more than 80,000 people have been diagnosed and more than 58,000 have so far recovered.

The Texas Department of State Health Services said Wednesday they're investigating whether the Montgomery County case was one of community spread. Health officials said the man had no out-of-state travel and no identified contact with another person with COVID-19.

The department website counts 21 cases in Texas of COVID-19 infection, not including dozens quarantined at a San Antonio military base after exposure to the virus on cruise ships and in China.

"We suspect that this is potentially the tip of an iceberg," said Dr. David Persse, the health authority for the Houston Health Department. "There may be many people throughout the community who are infected."

Hidalgo said it's their "best understanding" that the man on Feb. 28 was at a barbecue cook-off that's part of the events leading up to the rodeo.

"They're still trying to suss out whether he had symptoms then, which would have made it a bigger issue, or whether he did not have symptoms then, which wouldn't have made it as big an issue," she said.

The rodeo opened March 3 and was set to run through March 22. In addition to rodeo events and a livestock show, the event also features a carnival and concerts. Performers so far this year have included Willie Nelson, Chance the Rapper and the K-pop group NCT 127. Performers who were scheduled to perform before the rodeo's end included Lizzo, Keith Urban, Gwen Stefani and Luke Bryan.

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China food prices spike as anti-virus effort disrupts supply

BEIJING (AP) — China's food prices jumped 21.4 percent over a year earlier in February as anti-virus efforts disrupted supplies, adding to pressure on communist leaders who are trying to revive economic activity.

Overall consumer prices rose 5.2 percent over a year ago, down from January's eight-year high of 5.4 percent but well above the ruling Communist Party's traditional annual target, government data showed Tuesday.

Pork prices, which have more than doubled over the past year due to an outbreak of African swine fever that disrupted supplies, rose by 9.3 percent compared with January. The government reported no year-on-year price increase.

The price of fresh vegetables rose 9.5 percent over a year ago.

The government has yet to announce this year's inflation target, but in previous years it has tried to keep consumer price increases below 3 percent.

Food prices spiked after

panic buying in January sparked by the suspension of most access to Wuhan, the city at the center of the coronavirus outbreak. The government announced a crackdown on hoarding and price gouging.

Travel and other controls disrupted shipments of food to crowded Chinese cities and animal feed to farmers. That left supermarket shelves temporarily depleted and depressed the flow of poultry and livestock to slaughterhouses.

The ruling party ordered local officials to speed supplies to markets.

The coronavirus hit as Chinese leaders were struggling to rebuild the country's pork industry following the outbreak of African swine fever, which killed or prompted authorities to destroy more than 1 million animals. Farmers allowed herds to dwindle.

The government is promising farmers subsidies and other aid, but industry analysts say China's pig herd won't return to normal size until next year.



Provided photo

Not only is it versatile and delicious, garlic may also play a role in cancer prevention.

Garlic greens and mushrooms

By SONJA GOEDKOOP, MSPH, RD

Not only is it versatile and delicious, garlic may also play a role in cancer prevention. The vegetable is rich in allium compounds, which have been linked with anti-cancer activity. Try this recipe for a quick and easy side dish that is bursting with

garlic flavor.

Ingredients

- 1 tsp. olive oil
- cup Sprinkle of crushed red pepper (optional)
- 1 mushrooms, sliced
- 1/2 bunch Swiss chard, chopped
- 2 cups baby spinach
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste

Directions

In a large non-stick skillet, heat olive oil over medium

heat.

Add garlic and crushed red pepper (if using) to pan and sauté for 2 minutes.

Add mushrooms and chard and cook, stirring frequently, for an additional 5 minutes.

Add spinach and cook until just wilted, about 1 minute longer.

Season with salt and pepper and serve.

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Congress acts to limit Trump on Iran military action

By **MATTHEW DALY**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Defying a veto threat, Congress has approved a bipartisan measure to limit President Donald Trump’s authority to launch military operations against Iran.

The House gave final legislative approval to the measure Wednesday, 227-186, sending it to Trump. The president has promised to veto the war powers resolution, warning that if his “hands were tied, Iran would have a field day.”

The resolution, sponsored by Sen. Tim Kaine, D-Va., declares that Trump must win approval from Congress before engaging in further military action against Iran. Kaine and other supporters say the measure is not about Trump or even the presidency, but instead is an important reassertion of congressional power to declare war.

Six Republicans joined 220 Democrats and independent Rep. Justin Amash of Michigan to support the measure. Six Democrats and 180 Republicans opposed it. In the Senate last month, eight Republicans backed the resolution.

The resolution “sends a clear message that the American people don’t want war with Iran and that Congress has not authorized war with Iran,” said Rep. Eliot Engel, D-N.Y., chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

While tensions with Iran have abated since a U.S. drone strike that killed Iran’s top general in early January, the resolution clarifying Congress’ power to declare war is still important, Engel said.

“Congress doesn’t have to wait until the president alone decides to use military force again,” Engel told House members during floor debate Wednesday. “It’s our responsibility to do something, because we know the tensions could flare up again at a moment’s notice. Iran has not been deterred as the administration promised.”

Texas Rep. Michael McCaul, the top Republican on the Foreign Affairs Committee, called the war powers measure “divisive and irresponsible” and based on a false premise.

“It orders the president to terminate hostilities against Iran. The problem is, for the other side, we are not engaged in hostilities in Iran,” McCaul said.

If the U.S. military launches strikes in Iran, “I believe that the president would need to come before this body to ask for a new authorization” for the use of force, McCaul said. “But that is not what we are facing.”

The House vote marked a rare exertion of authority from Congress, which also moved to impose restrictions on U.S. involvement with the Saudi-led war in Yemen last year after U.S.-based journalist Jamal Khashoggi was killed in a gruesome murder at Saudi Arabia’s consulate in Turkey. Trump promptly vetoed that measure.

The Democratic-controlled House passed a separate, nonbinding resolution on Iran in January, a few weeks before the Senate approved Kaine’s resolution. Two-thirds votes in the House and the GOP-run Senate would be needed to override an expected Trump veto.

Kaine hailed the House vote.

“For years, Congress has abdicated its responsibility on matters of war, but now a bipartisan majority in both the Senate and House has made clear that we shouldn’t be engaged in hostilities with Iran

without a vote of Congress,” he said in a statement.

The legislation “doesn’t prevent the president from defending the United States against imminent attack,” but instead “demands that the decision of whether or not we go on offense and send our troops into harm’s way should only be made after serious deliberation and a vote of Congress,” Kaine added. “If President Trump is serious about his promise to stop endless wars, he will sign this resolution into law.”

In a statement of administration policy, the White House said the resolution should be rejected “because it attempts to hinder the president’s ability to protect” U.S. diplomats, forces, allies and partners, including Israel, from the continued threat posed by Iran and its proxies, including militia groups and foreign fighters in Syria.

“Iran has a long history of attacking United States and coalition forces both directly and through its proxies,” the White House said, adding the congressional resolution could hinder Trump’s ability to protect U.S. forces and interests in the region.

“This joint resolution is untimely and misguided. Its adoption by Congress could undermine the ability of the United States to protect American citizens whom Iran continues to seek to harm,” the White House said.

Tehran responded to the U.S. attack on its top general, Qassem Soleimani, by launching missiles at two military bases in Iraq that house American troops. The attack caused traumatic brain injuries in more than 100 U.S. soldiers, the Pentagon said.

Democrats and Republicans alike criticized a briefing by the Trump administration shortly after the drone strike, sayers U.S. officials offered vague information about a possible attack being planned by Iran but no substantial details.

Kaine has long pushed for action reasserting congressional power over military conflict. At the request of Republican senators, he removed initial language that targeted Trump in favor of a generalized statement declaring Congress has sole power to declare war. The resolution also directs Trump to terminate use of military force against Iran or any part of its government without approval from Congress and commends Trump for killing Soleimani, who was long designated a terrorist by the U.S.

“No one lamented the loss of Mr. Soleimani. No one,” said House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, D-Md. “That’s not what this bill is about.”

The resolution “is about our Constitution, the authority of this body to declare or not declare war,” Hoyer added. “It ought to be the representatives of the people that take them to war, not a president – any president, Democrat or Republican. This is about our responsibility.”

MANCHESTER

From page A1

This will help in our preparedness to keep the community safe and healthy,” stated McFadden.

McFadden stated they were closely following both internal protocols and direction from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the American College Health Association (ACHA).

McFadden stated any students who believe they might have been exposed to COVID-19 while on spring break to email health@manchester.edu before returning to campus or call University Safety after hours at 260-982-5999.

“It has felt like a long winter and, whether you travel for spring break or stay put, I hope it is a good, safe and healthy week for everyone,” stated McFadden.

In addition to McFadden’s message, Manchester University’s Center for Health and Sports Medicine (CHSM) also issued information regarding their Medical Alerts.

“The purpose of using online teaching is to reduce large gatherings. Our class sizes do not warrant the use of online-only course delivery as an effective means of reducing contact. We have contacted health officials and have not been advised to change our normal operations,” stated the CHSM.

“The university will not close unless there is a significant change in the COVID-19 epidemic in northeast Indiana and our local communities.

The CHSM stated “a large team of administrators and staff have been monitoring the outbreak since it was first reported” and that they had undertaken the following steps:

- Paying more attention to the cleaning of high touch surfaces on both campuses.

- We have increased our inventory of personal protective equipment, including hand sanitizers, masks and gowns.

- Coronavirus prevention education has been incorporated into residence life programming, communication with student-athletes, and Toilet Talk.

The CHSM stated students should still attend classes as long as they are feeling well.

“As always, students should monitor their own health and safety and communicate with faculty in their class if they feel ill or believe they have been in direct contact with someone who has COVID-19. Where possible, we may be able to make accommodations,” stated the CHSM. “Colleagues can find cleaning supplies in the respective locations previously identified by custodial services.”

The CHSM offered the following tips for preventing the spread of illness:

- Wash your hands frequently and thoroughly with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Cover coughs and sneezes in your elbow or sleeve, then wash your hands.

- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.

- Stay at home and avoid public places and travel, when possible.

- Keep your personal space as clean as you can.

The CHSM stated they

were monitoring future campus events on a “case by case basis.”

“Should we need to cancel large-scale campus events, you will receive a communication from the administration,” stated the CHSM.

The CHSM stated students and faculty should take their laptops and course materials with them on spring break in the event they are unable to return to campus.

“We are providing resources available to faculty to accommodate those students who need to miss class,” stated the CHSM.

The CHSM stated Manchester University will not tolerate any discrimination fueled by fears of the virus.

“Manchester University respects the infinite worth of every individual. Therefore, xenophobic behavior or any actions that target individuals and communities based on their identities is unacceptable and antithetical to what it means to be part of our community,” stated the CHSM. “We encourage students to share those experiences with us immediately so that they can be addressed. You can report bias incidents through Report it!”

The CHSM stated visitors are not being restricted at either the Fort Wayne or North Manchester campuses.

Also, students studying abroad will continue their studies as usual for the time being.

“Students who choose to depart their host country should follow any recommended guidelines from the CDC for travel and will be asked to self-isolate for 14 days before returning to the Manchester campus. It is the responsibility of the student to contact their host program and/or student financial services regarding any refund or non-tuition expenses,” stated the CHSM.

Purdue moves to online-only

In a Tuesday statement, Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr., Purdue University president, and Jay T. Akridge, provost and executive vice president for academic affairs and diversity, advised all faculty and staff would be moving courses online before March 23 “and should be prepared to continue as long as in-person instruction seems inadvisable, potentially through the end of the semester.”

“To be clear, the campus will remain open after spring break. However, starting March 23, students must take their courses online,” they stated.

They said despite the fact no cases of COVID-19 had been identified on campus, that they were “taking actions that aim to limit exposure of Purdue community members to the virus, imposing social distancing where appropriate and generally elevating preventive hygiene practices across the campus.”

“We ask every faculty and staff member teaching this

semester to accommodate students who are not feeling well by being flexible with attendance policies. Likewise, we have guidance on the COVID-19 website for faculty and staff who have students displaying flu-like symptoms in class to assist those students in seeking medical attention,” they stated. “Students in the residence halls have the option of choosing whether to return to campus or not after spring break. Again, we will work to ensure that all students can complete their program of study online or have other accommodations.”

They stated Purdue University would be suspending all university-sponsored domestic and international air travel effective March 16 through May 2. They stated Purdue University would also be suspending all university-sponsored events, including those hosted by registered student organizations, involving external visitors effective March 16 through May 2.

“For purposes of this suspension, gatherings of 50 or more attendees should be postponed or canceled. Where possible, organizers can explore ways of conducting the event through live streaming or other technologies,” they stated. “At this point, we hope to be able to host Commencement exercises, but a final decision will be made at a later date.”

They stated all summer study abroad will also be canceled.

“Students will be reimbursed by the university for any expenses that are not reimbursable from other sources. Students should check with their academic advisor about alternative coursework for the summer,” they stated.

IU also moves to online only

In a statement Tuesday, Indiana University President Michael A. McRobbie stated they were taking several steps to curb the spread of the virus.

“To date, no known cases of COVID-19 have been identified on any IU campus. Two IU students have self-reported presumptively positive tests for COVID-19 after being in a CDC-designated Level 3 country while studying abroad. They are receiving care at their home cities, and neither has returned to an IU campus,” stated McRobbie.

McRobbie stated that like Purdue University, all face-to-face classroom teaching will be temporarily suspended at IU.

“Following our scheduled spring break from March 15 to 22, students on all IU campuses will be taught remotely for two weeks from March 23 to April 5,” stated McRobbie. “We are planning to resume face-to-face teaching on Monday, April 6. However, that could change with the evolving situation. Students are encouraged to travel home, if possible, during this time. For these two weeks,

course work will continue via virtual online teaching. We are investigating how to accommodate classroom activities that typically include laboratories or other in-person interactions, and specific guidance will follow. IU campuses will not close, and residential halls and dining will remain open. While completing classes virtually, students are strongly encouraged to stay in their permanent homes away from campus, unless they are prevented from returning home because of travel restrictions or they do not have access to the technology at home, such as reliable internet access, to complete their classes remotely.”

McRobbie stated IU staff and faculty would be working from home by telecommuting as its possible.

“In making these decisions, unit heads should be as flexible as possible, considering the nature of the work and whether the necessary tools and technology are available to allow employees to fully perform their job duties away from campus,” stated McRobbie.

McRobbie stated all university-sponsored or affiliated domestic and international travel is suspended through April 5.

“Personal international travel is strongly discouraged given the associated risks of possibly being unable to return for some period if the situation changes. Travelers returning from countries designated Level 2 or 3 by the CDC are subject to 14-day self-quarantine off-campus upon return,” stated McRobbie. “We encourage all members of the IU community to consider using video conferencing, phones or other means rather than traveling campus-to-campus or elsewhere to meet in person. Other than for students returning home, personal travel outside Indiana is also discouraged.”

Unlike Manchester University, McRobbie stated visitors to IU campuses were “strongly discouraged.”

“Previously scheduled visits should be postponed, and it is important to keep in mind that travelers from international destinations in CDC-designated Level 2 or 3 countries are subject to the 14-day, off-campus self-quarantine on arrival. The CDC designation for any country could change at any time,” stated McRobbie.

McRobbie stated no new non-essential, large events should be scheduled through April 6.

“For events already scheduled through April 6, organizers are strongly encouraged to immediately consider canceling or rescheduling these,” stated McRobbie. “While IU campuses will not be officially closed as part of these two weeks, we ask for your patience as some services may be limited due to adjusted staffing levels.”

Rob Burgess, Wabash Plain Dealer editor, may be reached by email at rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com.

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Victor Martinez nominates horse to Triple Crown series

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — Former five-time All-Star baseball player Victor Martinez paid \$6,000 to nominate King Guillermo to the Triple Crown series.

King Guillermo won the Tampa Bay Derby at 49-1 odds last weekend.

Victoria's Ranch, Martinez's Florida-based racing operation, made the payment Tuesday.

As a result, King Guillermo stands fifth in qualifying points on the Kentucky Derby leaderboard, which determines the 20-horse field for the May 2 race at Churchill Downs.

76ers' Simmons out at least 3 more weeks with back injury

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Philadelphia 76ers guard Ben Simmons will miss at least three more weeks with nerve issues in his lower back.

The 76ers say the All-Star will miss his eighth straight game when the Sixers play Detroit on Wednesday night. Simmons will continue to undergo daily treatment for his nerve impingement and that he is gradually increasing the activities in his strength and conditioning program.

The timeline could have Simmons back just in time for the playoffs. The 23-year-old Simmons averaged 16.7 points, 7.8 rebounds and 8.2 assists in 54 games.

Mother of 3 of Floyd Mayweather Jr's children found dead

SANTA CLARITA, Calif. (AP) — An ex-girlfriend of boxer Floyd Mayweather Jr. who was the mother of three of his children was found dead in a Southern California suburb, authorities said.

The coroner's office confirmed Wednesday that the woman was Josie Harris, Los Angeles County Sheriff Alex Villanueva told KABC-TV.

The woman was found just before 10 p.m. Tuesday in a vehicle parked in the driveway of her apparent residence just outside the city of Santa Clarita and firefighters pronounced her dead, a sheriff's department statement said.

Sheriff's investigators and the coroner's office were working to determine the cause of death, Villanueva said.

"It will take a while to figure that out," he said.

Submit your news

The *Plain Dealer* is accepting all news, varsity, junior varsity, middle school, elementary school and non-school affiliated recreational sports. To get a brief in the newspaper, please provide final score and any highlights pertaining to the event, including first and last names of participants. Reports must be received by 3 p.m. to make it in the following day's edition. Items may be:

■ Emailed to sports@wabashplaindealer.com.

■ Called into 260-225-4523 after 11 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. Please do not leave complete results on voice mail.

■ Mailed into *Plain Dealer*, 123 W. Canal St., Wabash, IN 46992.

Organizations or individuals emailing materials should call the sports department to ensure the information was received. The *Plain Dealer* reserves the right to edit material for length, clarity and/or style, and does not guarantee publication.

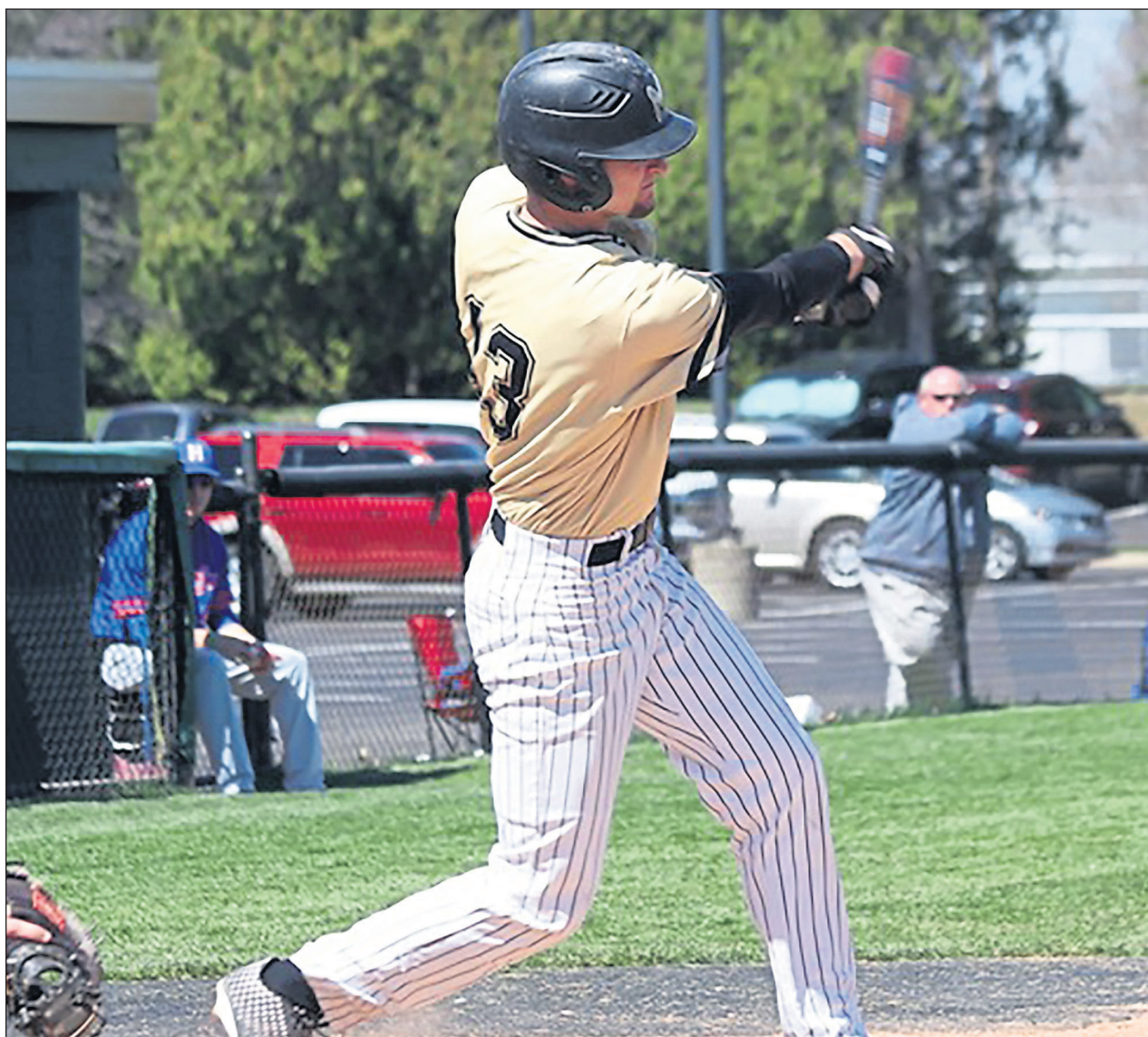


Photo provided by Manchester University

Manchester's Michael Pinarski swings at a pitch during a game earlier this season for the Spartans.

Spartans snap losing streak with late win

By **CHUCK LANDIS**
clandis@chronicle-tibune.com

UPLAND – Baseball is noted for having ups and downs and Taylor already has experienced both in the first month of the 2020 season.

There was the exhilarating high of opening the season with seven consecutive victories. But now has come a low point, and the Trojans have dropped three straight following Tuesday evening's 6-5 loss to Manchester University at Winterholter Field.

The Trojans' generosity allowed Division III Manchester (2-5) to open a 2-0 lead in the very first inning. Back-to-back walks to the Spartans No. 7 and 8 hitters led to the go-ahead run in the eighth inning.

"Credit Manchester, they took advantage of the mistakes, and we made a lot of them," Trojans coach Kyle Gould said. "Just too many free bases and following them up with mistakes in the field."

"For a while we were hitting enough to

overcome some of that," Gould continued. "But that's not the way baseball's played and we have a long way to go. But Manchester got the big hits when they needed them."

Even with the recent setbacks the Trojans have started 13-5 with a young team including multiple freshmen who have made an impact. But the losing streak began Saturday with consecutive losses to Crossroads League rival Goshen and they were 1-2 in the opening league series.

"We got a lot of young guys playing and it's good to get some games under our belt and be exposed to some challenges," said Nick Rusche, who has batted .406 to start the season and extended his hitting streak to 14 games on Tuesday.

Taylor fell behind 3-0 before Rusche's single in the third inning started a 4-run rally. The Trojans loaded the bases and Rusche scored on Conner Crawford's ground out.

Freshman Matt Dutkowski

then hit a two-run single, making it 3-all, and Ben Kalbaugh singled to score the go-ahead run.

The Trojans tacked on a run in the fifth on Jacob Morris' RBI single before Manchester tied it 5-all with single runs in the sixth and seventh. In the Spartans eighth, Zach White and Aiden Steven walked with one out and No. 9 hitter Alex Morr bunted for a base hit, loading the bases.

White scored the eventual game-winning run on Michael Pina's sacrifice fly to left field. Nick Rush pitched four scoreless relief innings to close out the game and the Spartans ended a five-game losing streak.

"I had an error," said Rushe, the Trojans shortstop, "and we had a couple bad errors and gave up a couple runs in the first inning. That's always a bad thing and something we need to work on is our defense and not giving up more outs than we have."

Taylor made the most of a late January trip to Arizona, winning seven of eight

games, and have played steadily since returning to Indiana. Tuesday was the Trojans' fourth game at their turfed infield stadium.

"That seems like a long time ago and we had some big wins early and we were playing well for a stretch," Gould said. "We're just not playing real well right now. Just playing bad baseball, not throwing enough strikes, not making enough plays in the field, not executing on offense. We're just playing bad."

Kalbaugh finished 3-for-4 to lead a 12-hit Trojans attack, while Dutkowski was 2-for-4 and Rushe and Morris each were 2-for-5. Dutkowski and another freshman Kade Vander Molen both doubled, the Trojans' only extra base hits.

"(Rusche) just does it all and plays the game really, really well," Gould said. "A good hitter, defender, baserunner he can do just about anything."

"T.J. Bass got off to a great start, but he's struggled a little bit lately.

See **SPARTANS**, page B2

Only essential staff and limited family allowed at NCAA tournaments

By **RALPH D. RUSSO**
AP College Sports Writer

NCAA President Mark Emmert says NCAA Division I basketball tournament games will not be open to the general public because of concerns about the spread of coronavirus.

Emmert said in a statement Wednesday that he made the decision to conduct both the men's and women's tournaments, which begin next week, with only essential staff and limited family in attendance. The decision comes after the NCAA's COVID-19 advisory panel of medical experts recommended against playing sporting events open to the general public.

Emmert said the NCAA also was looking into moving the men's Final Four from Atlanta's Mercedes-Benz Stadium to a smaller arena.

The 68-team field for

the men's tournament is scheduled to be announced Sunday and the 64-team women's tournament field is to be unveiled Monday. Games begin Tuesday and Wednesday on the men's side in Dayton, Ohio, where earlier Wednesday the governor said he would issue an order to restrict spectator access to indoor sporting events.

The Mid-American Conference on Tuesday announced it was closing its men's and women's basketball tournament games at Cleveland's Rocket Mortgage FieldHouse, home of the NBA's Cleveland Cavaliers and scheduled site of the men's NCAA games, to the general public. The women's tournament started Wednesday.

The Big West Conference announced a similar move, not allowing the general public into its basketball tournament games to be played this week at the

Honda Center in Anaheim, California.

Conference college basketball tournaments are in full swing across the country this week. The Atlantic Coast Conference is in Day 2 of its five-day men's tournament in Greensboro, North Carolina, and the Pac-12 played the first game of its tournament in Las Vegas on Wednesday.

Later Wednesday, the Southeastern Conference was to begin its men's tournament in Nashville, Tennessee; the Big East was set to start at Madison Square Garden in New York; and the Big Ten was also scheduled to tip off in Indianapolis. There were no plans to restrict fan access to those events.

March Madness hits another level next week with the start of the NCAA Tournament to crown a national champion, one of the most popular events on the American sports calendar.

There are eight first- and second-round sites for the men's tournament, scheduled to be played March 19-22. Locations include Cleveland; Spokane, Washington; Albany, New York; Sacramento, California; and Omaha, Nebraska. The four regional sites for the second weekend of the tournament are Indianapolis, Los Angeles, Houston and New York. The Final Four is scheduled to be held in at Mercedes-Benz Stadium in Atlanta, with the semifinals on April 4 and the championship game April 6.

The women's tournament first- and second-round games begin March 21 and will be played at 16 sites, mostly on or close the campuses of the top seeded teams. The regionals will be played in Dallas, Greenville, South Carolina; Portland, Oregon; and Fort Wayne, Indiana. The Final Four will be held in New Orleans on April 3 and 5.

Mariners moving games, Warriors going fanless

By **JIMMY GOLEN**
Associated Press

The Golden State Warriors' game against the Brooklyn Nets on Thursday night will be played without fans in the arena, and the Mariners are moving their home games out of Seattle for the rest of March in an effort to slow the coronavirus outbreak.

Shortly after San Francisco Mayor London Breed banned all gatherings of 1,000 or more people for the next two weeks, the Warriors announced they would go ahead with the game, but without fans at Chase Center. Four other events scheduled through March 21 at the building, which seats more than 18,000 people, have been postponed or canceled, including a Post Malone concert.

"We are closely monitoring developments to determine the appropriate course for future Warriors home games," NBA spokesman Mike Bass said in a statement, "and will continue to work with local governments, the CDC and public health experts to protect the health of our fans, players, coaches and staff in NBA markets across the country."

The Mariners and Major League Baseball have not announced where they will play the team's season-opening, four-game series against the Texas Rangers that had been scheduled for March 26-29. It was to be followed by three games against the Minnesota Twins from March 30 through April 1.

Washington Gov. Jay Inslee has prohibited gatherings of more than 250 people in Seattle, which has experienced the most COVID-19 deaths in the U.S.

"While we hope to be back to playing baseball in Seattle as soon as possible, the health and safety of our community is the most important consideration," the Mariners said.

Elsewhere, the Ivy League canceled all spring sports, as many of its schools told students not to return from spring break and prepare for classes to be taught online. The conference had already canceled its men's and women's basketball tournaments; other conferences went ahead with theirs as college basketball awaits word on the status of the NCAA Tournament, one of the biggest events on the sporting calendar.

Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine said he will issue an order to ban fans from NCAA Tournament games in the state. Dayton will host the NCAA's First Four next week, and first- and second-round games are scheduled for Cleveland.

More than 1,000 people have tested positive for the novel coronavirus in the United States, with 32 deaths; those rates are expected to continue to rise dramatically in what the World Health Organization declared on Wednesday to be an international pandemic.

Most people quickly recover from the virus after experiencing only mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia.

According to WHO,

See **VIRUS**, page B2

SCOREBOARD

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Conference Tournaments

ATLANTIC COAST CONFERENCE
Tuesday's Games
Pittsburgh 81, Wake Forest 72
North Carolina 78, Virginia Tech 56
Wednesday's Games
Miami vs. Clemson at Greensboro, N.C.
Pittsburgh vs. NC State at Greensboro, N.C.
Boston College vs. Notre Dame at Greensboro
North Carolina vs. Syracuse at Greensboro, N.C.

Today's Games
ACC — Second Round — Game 1 (win) vs. Florida St. at Greensboro, N.C., 12:30 p.m.
ACC — Second Round — Game 2 (win) vs. Duke at Greensboro, N.C., 3 p.m.
ACC — Second Round — Game 3 (win) vs. Virginia at Greensboro, N.C., 7 p.m.
ACC — Second Round — Game 4 (win) vs. Louisville at Greensboro, N.C., 9:30 p.m.

BIG EAST CONFERENCE
Wednesday's Games
St. John's vs. Georgetown at New York
DePaul vs. Xavier at New York, N.Y.

Today's Games
Big East — First Round — Game 1 (win) vs. Creighton at New York, N.Y., Noon
Butler vs. Providence at New York, N.Y., 2:30 p.m.
Big East — First Round — Game 2 (win) vs. Villanova at New York, N.Y., 7 p.m.
Marquette vs. Seton Hall at New York, N.Y., 9:30 p.m.

BIG TEN CONFERENCE
Wednesday's Games
Northwestern vs. Minnesota at Indianapolis
Nebraska vs. Indiana at Indianapolis

Today's Games
Michigan vs. Rutgers at Indianapolis, Noon
Big Ten — First Round — Game 1 (win) vs. Iowa at Indianapolis, 2:25 p.m.
Purdue vs. Ohio St. at Indianapolis, 6:30 p.m.
Big Ten — First Round — Game 2 (win) vs. Penn St. at Indianapolis, 8:55 p.m.
Friday's Games
Big Ten — Second Round — Game 1 (win) vs. Wisconsin at Indianapolis, Noon
Big Ten — Second Round — Game 2 (win) vs. Illinois at Indianapolis, 2:25 p.m.
Big Ten — Second Round — Game 3 (win) vs. Michigan St. at Indianapolis, 6:30 p.m.
Big Ten — Second Round — Game 4 (win) vs. Maryland at Indianapolis, 8:55 p.m.

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Toronto	46	18	.719	—
x-Boston	43	21	.672	3
Phila.	38	26	.594	8
Brooklyn	30	34	.469	16
New York	20	45	.308	26½

Southeast Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	41	23	.641	—
Orlando	30	35	.462	11½
Washington	24	40	.375	17
Charlotte	22	42	.344	19
Atlanta	20	46	.303	22

Centrl Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Milwaukee	53	12	.815	—
Indiana	39	26	.600	14
Chicago	22	43	.338	31
Detroit	20	45	.308	33
Cleveland	19	46	.292	34

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	40	24	.625	—
Dallas	39	27	.591	2
Memphis	32	33	.492	8½
New Orleans	28	36	.438	12
San Antonio	27	36	.429	12½

Northwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Denver	43	21	.672	—
Utah	41	23	.641	2
Oklahoma City	40	24	.625	3
Portland	29	37	.439	15
Minnesota	19	45	.297	24

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-L.A. Lakers	49	14	.778	—
L.A. Clippers	44	20	.688	5½
Sacramento	28	36	.438	21½
Phoenix	26	39	.400	24
Golden State	15	50	.231	35

x-clinched playoff spot

Tuesday's Games
Boston 114, Indiana 111
Washington 122, New York 115
Houston 117, Minnesota 111
Chicago 108, Cleveland 103
San Antonio 119, Dallas 109
Orlando 120, Memphis 115
Portland 121, Phoenix 105
L.A. Clippers 131, Golden State 107
Brooklyn 104, L.A. Lakers 102

Wednesday's Games
Detroit at Phila.
Charlotte at Miami
New York at Atlanta
Denver at Dallas
Utah at Oklahoma City
New Orleans at Sacramento

Today's Games
Chicago at Orlando, 7 p.m.
Boston at Milwaukee, 8 p.m.
Memphis at Portland, 10 p.m.
Brooklyn at Golden State, 10:30 p.m.
Houston at L.A. Lakers, 10:30 p.m.

Friday's Games
Cleveland at Charlotte, 7 p.m.
Washington at Boston, 7:30 p.m.
Minnesota at Oklahoma City, 8 p.m.
New York at Miami, 8 p.m.
Chicago at Miami, 8 p.m.
Golden State at Milwaukee, 8:30 p.m.
Minnesota at San Antonio, 8:30 p.m.
Memphis at Utah, 9 p.m.
New Orleans at L.A. Clippers, 10:30 p.m.

Saturday's Games
Phoenix at Dallas, 2 p.m.
Cleveland at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.
Detroit at Toronto, 7:30 p.m.
Indiana at Phila., 7:30 p.m.
Chicago at Miami, 8 p.m.
Golden State at Milwaukee, 8:30 p.m.
Minnesota at San Antonio, 8:30 p.m.
Memphis at Utah, 9 p.m.
New Orleans at L.A. Clippers, 10:30 p.m.

Tuesday's result

BOSTON 114, INDIANA 111

BOSTON (114)
Hayward 10-19 4-4 27, Tatum 11-22 5-6 30, Theis 8-12 2-2 20, Smart 6-14 2-16, Walker 3-12 3-4 11, Langford 0-4 0-0 0, Ojeleye 1-5 0-0 3, Williams 0-0 0-0 0, Kanter 1-3 0-1 2, Wanamaker 1-2 3-3 5. Totals 41-93 19-22 114.
INDIANA (111)
Sabonis 13-23 2-2 28, Warren 9-18 3-8 22, Turner 7-11 1-2 16, A.Holiday 3-9 0-0 4, Oladipo 9-16 4-4 27, Sampson 0-2 0-0 0, J.Holiday 3-7 0-0 8, McConnell 1-3 0-0 2, Sumner 2-4 0-0 4. Totals 46-93 10-11 111.
Boston 3-7 0-0 8, Totals 35 20 — 114
Indiana 22 28 30 31 111
3-Point Goals—Boston 13-37 (Hayward 3-7, Turner 3-9, Theis 2-2, Smart 2-6), Walker 2-8, Ojeleye 1-4), Indiana 9-24 (Oladipo 5-7, J.Holiday 2-5, Warren 1-2, Turner 1-3, Sabonis 0-2, A.Holiday 0-4). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Boston 46 (Hayward 10), Indiana 43 (Sabonis 9), Assists—Boston 19 (Hayward, Smart 5), Indiana 23 (Sabonis 8). Total Fouls—Boston 15, Indiana 20. A—17,053 (20,000)

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Boston	70	44	14	12	100	227	174
Tampa Bay	70	43	21	6	92	245	195
Toronto	70	36	25	9	81	238	227
Florida	69	35	26	8	78	231	228
Montreal	71	31	31	9	71	212	221
Buffalo	69	30	31	8	68	195	217
Ottawa	70	25	33	12	62	189	240
Detroit	71	17	49	5	39	145	267

Metropolitan Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Washington	69	41	20	8	90	240	215
Philadelphia	69	41	21	7	89	232	196
Pittsburgh	68	40	23	5	86	224	196
Carolina	68	38	25	5	81	222	193
Columbus	70	33	22	15	81	180	187
N.Y. Islanders	68	35	23	10	80	192	193
N.Y. Rangers	69	37	28	4	78	232	219
New Jersey	69	28	29	12	68	189	230

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
St. Louis	70	41	19	10	92	221	191
Colorado	69	41	20	8	90	234	189
Dallas	69	37	24	8	82	180	177
Nashville	69	35	26	8	78	215	217
Winnipeg	70	36	28	6	78	212	201
Minnesota	69	35	27	7	77	220	220

ON THE AIR

AUTO RACING
8:55 p.m.
ESPN — Formula 1: The Australian Grand Prix, Practice 1, Melbourne, Australia
12:55 a.m.
ESPN — Formula 1: The Australian Grand Prix, Practice 2, Melbourne, Australia

COLLEGE BASKETBALL (MEN'S)

12 p.m.
BTN — Big Ten Tournament: Michigan vs. Rutgers, Second Round, Indianapolis
FS1 — Big East Tournament: TBD vs. Creighton, Quarterfinal, New York
NBCSN — Atlantic 10 Tournament: Massachusetts vs. Virginia Commonwealth, Second Round, Brooklyn, N.Y.

12:30 p.m.
ESPN — ACC Tournament: TBD vs. Florida State, Quarterfinal, Greensboro, N.C.
ESPN2 — Big 12 Tournament: Texas vs. Texas Tech, Quarterfinal, Kansas City, Mo.

1 p.m.
ESPN — American Athletic Tournament: Central Florida vs. South Florida, First Round, Fort Worth, Texas
SECN — SEC Tournament: Alabama vs. Tennessee, Second Round, Nashville, Tenn.

2:30 p.m.
BTN — Big Ten Tournament: TBD vs. Iowa, Second Round, Indianapolis
ESPN — ACC Tournament: Teams TBD, Quarterfinal, Greensboro, N.C.
ESPN2 — Big 12 Tournament: TBD vs. Kansas, Quarterfinal, Kansas City, Mo.

3 p.m.
FS1 — Big East Tournament: Providence vs. Butler, Quarterfinal, New York
NBCSN — Atlantic 10 Tournament: TBD vs. St. Bonaventure, Second Round, Brooklyn, N.Y.

3 p.m.
ESPN — American Athletic Tournament: Connecticut vs. Tulane, First Round, Fort Worth, Texas
PAC-12N — PAC-12 Tournament: TBD vs. Oregon, Quarterfinal, Las Vegas

3:30 p.m.
SECN — SEC Tournament: TBD vs. Florida, Second Round, Nashville, Tenn.

5:30 p.m.
PAC-12N — PAC-12 Tournament: TBD vs. Southern California, Quarterfinal, Las Vegas

6 p.m.
NBCSN — Atlantic 10 Tournament: Davidson vs. La Salle, Second Round, Brooklyn, N.Y.

6:30 p.m.
BTN — Big Ten Tournament: Purdue vs. Ohio State, Second Round, Indianapolis

7 p.m.
ESPN — ACC Tournament: TBD vs. Virginia, Quarterfinal, Greensboro, N.C.
ESPN2 — Big 12 Tournament: TBD

8 p.m.
vs. Baylor, Quarterfinal, Kansas City, Mo.
FS1 — Big East Tournament: TBD vs. Villanova, Quarterfinal, New York
SECN — SEC Tournament: Missouri vs. Texas A&M, Second Round, Nashville, Tenn.

8 p.m.
ESPN — American Athletic Tournament: Southern Methodist vs. Temple, First Round, Fort Worth, Texas
NBCSN — Atlantic 10 Tournament: TBD vs. Duquesne, Second Round, Brooklyn, N.Y.

8:30 p.m.
BTN — Big Ten Tournament: TBD vs. Penn State, Second Round, Indianapolis
ESPN — ACC Tournament: Teams TBD, Quarterfinal, Greensboro, N.C.
PAC-12N — PAC-12 Tournament: TBD vs. UCLA, Quarterfinal, Las Vegas

9:30 p.m.
ESPN2 — Big 12 Tournament: Oklahoma vs. West Virginia, Quarterfinal, Kansas City, Mo.
FS1 — Big East Tournament: Seton Hall vs. Marquette, Quarterfinal, New York
SECN — SEC Tournament: TBD vs. South Carolina, Second Round, Nashville, Tenn.

10 p.m.
ESPN — American Athletic Tournament: Memphis vs. East Carolina, First Round, Fort Worth, Texas
11:30 p.m.
FS1 — Pac-12 Tournament: TBD vs. Arizona St., Quarterfinal, Las Vegas

COLLEGE LACROSSE (WOMEN'S)
7 p.m.
ACCN — Syracuse at Virginia

GOLF
1 p.m.
GOLF — PGA Tour: The Players Championship, First Round, Palm Valley, Fla.

CYCLING
2 a.m.
NBCSN — UCI: The Paris-Nice, Stage 4, 9 miles, Saint-Amand-Montrond, France (taped)

2 a.m. (Friday)
NBCSN — UCI: The Paris-Nice, Stage 5, 141 miles, Gannat — La Côte-Saint-André, France (taped)

MLB BASEBALL
1 p.m.
MLBN — Spring Training: Toronto vs. Pittsburgh, Bradenton, Fla.

4 p.m.
MLBN — Spring Training: LA Dodgers vs. Chicago Cubs, Mesa, Ariz.

NBA BASKETBALL
8 p.m.
TNT — Boston at Milwaukee
10:30 p.m.
TNT — Houston at LA Lakers

SOCCER (MEN'S)
10:20 p.m.
FS2 — CONCACAF Champions League: Cruz Azul at LA FC, Quarterfinal Leg 1

4:10 p.m.
Milwaukee (ss) vs. Arizona at Scottsdale, Ariz., 4:10 p.m.
Baltimore vs. Minnesota at Fort Myers, Fla., 6:05 p.m.

AUTO RACING
NASCAR Cup Series
Schedule and Winners
Feb. 9 — x-Busch Clash at DAYTONA (Erik Jones)
Feb. 13 — x-Bluegreen Vacations Duel 1 at DAYTONA (Joey Logano)
Feb. 13 — x-Bluegreen Vacations Duel 2 at DAYTONA (William Byron)
Feb. 16 — DAYTONA 500 (Denny Hamlin)
Feb. 23 — Pennzoil 400 presented by Jiffy Lube (Joey Logano)
March 1 — Auto Club 400 (Alex Bowman)
March 8 — FanShield 500 (Joey Logano)
March 15 — Folds of Honor QuikTrip 500, Hampton, Ga.
March 22 — Dixie Vodka 400, Homestead, Fla.
March 29 — O'Reilly Auto Parts 500, Fort Worth, Texas
April 5 — Food City 500, Bristol, Tenn.
April 19 — Toyota Owners 400, Richmond, Va.
April 26 — GEICO 500, Talladega, Ala.
May 3 — NASCAR Cup Series Race at Dover, Dover, Del.
May 9 — NASCAR Cup Series Race at Martinsville, Martinsville, Va.
May 16 — x-NASCAR Open, Concord, N.C.
May 16 — x-NASCAR All-Star Race, Concord, N.C.
May 24 — Coca-Cola 600, Concord, N.C.
May 31 — Kansas 400, Kansas City, Kan.
June 7 — FireKeepers Casino 400, Brooklyn, Mich.

TRANSACTIONS
BASEBALL
Major League Baseball
American League
CHICAGO White SOX — Optioned C Seby Zavala to Charlotte (IL). Optioned RHP Zach Burdi, LHP Bernardo Flores Jr. and OFs Micker Adolfo, Luis Basabe and Blake Rutherford to Birmingham (SL). Re-assigned RHPs Tayron Guerrero and Bryan Mitchell and LHPs Caleb Frare, Kodi Medeiros and Matt Tomshaw to minor league camp.
HOUSTON ASTROS — Re-assigned RHP Bielak, IF Osvaldo Duarte, RHP Ralph Garza, C Lorenzo Quintana, RHP Andre Scrubb and OF Stephen Wrenn to minor league camp.
National League
CHICAGO CUBS — Assigned INFs Carlos Asuaje, Trent Giambrone and Corban Joseph; OF Noel Cuevas to minor league camp. Optioned RHPs Adbert Alzolay and Colin Rea; INF Zack Short to Triple-A Iowa (PCL). Optioned C Miguel Amaya to Double-A Tennessee (SL). Re-assigned RHP Michael Rucker to major league camp as a non-roster invite.
NEW YORK METS — Agreed to terms with INF Pete Alonso, RHP Tyler Bashor, INF/OF J.D. Davis, INF Andres Gimenez, LHP Stephen Gonslaves, INF Luis Guillorme, RHP Jordan Humphreys, RHP Franklin Kilome, RHP Walker Lockett, INF/OF Jeff McNeil, C Tomas Nido, RHP Stephen Nogosek, RHP Corey Oswalt, RHP Jacob Rhame, INF Amed Rosario, C Ali Sanchez, RHP Paul Sewald, INF/OF Dominic Smith, RHP Drew Smith, LHP Thomas Szapucki, and LHP Daniel Zamora to one-year contracts. Optioned RHP Corey Oswalt to minor league camp. Re-assigned LHP David Peterson and RHP Pedro Payano to minor league camp.

Minor League Baseball
Atlantic League
LONG ISLAND DUCKS — Signed RHP Travis Banwart, INF/LHP Clint Freeman.
BASKETBALL
NBA G League
CAPITOL CITY GO-GO — Added F Jordan Bell off waivers from the Memphis Grizzlies. Waived F Stephan Jankovic.

FOOTBALL
National Football League
TENNESSEE TITANS — Agreed to a one-year extension with OLB Reggie Gilbert.
HOCKEY
National Hockey League
NEW YORK RANGERS — Recalled F Steven Fogarty from Hartford (AHL). Re-assigned F Jake Elmer to Hartford (AHL).
PHOENIX COYOTES — Assigned D Aaron Ness to Tucson (AHL).

ECHL
WORCESTER RAILERS — Signed F James Anderson and F Michael Gillespie to contracts.

SOCCER
Major League Soccer
SPORTING KANSAS CITY — Announced the retirement of MF Benny Feilhaber.
United Soccer League Championship
USL CHAMPIONSHIP DISCIPLINE — Suspended LHP Mnrchs SLC D Noah Powder one game.

Celtics clinch playoff spot with 114-111 win over Pacers

By CHRIS GOFF
Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Marcus Smart's leaning bank shot in the final minute gave the Celtics the lead after the team blew a 19-point advantage and Boston then held on for a 114-111 victory Tuesday night over the Indiana Pacers to clinch a playoff spot for a sixth consecutive year.

Jayson Tatum scored 30 points for Boston, which snapped a 1-4 skid and is third in the Eastern Conference, while Gordon Hayward added 27 points, 10 boards and five assists in his home state.

Smart put the Celtics ahead for good at 111-109 with 49.7 seconds left by scoring in the lane over Domantas Sabonis, who led Indiana with 28 points, nine rebounds and eight assists.

Smart made two free throws with seven seconds to go for a three-point edge, and Justin Holiday missed badly on a contested 3-pointer as time expired.

“Good win, and it couldn't have come at a better time with the week we've been having,” Smart said. “We were really calm. You're going to have to learn to win games like this.”

Victor Oladipo finished with a season-high 27 points to power a stunning comeback for the Pacers, who fell

into an 85-66 hole late in the third quarter.

“We showed a lot of fight,” said Oladipo, who only made his season debut Jan. 29 due to a major knee surgery. “It's been a minute since I've been in that position.”

T.J. Warren, who finished with 22 points, hit a 3-pointer from the left corner to complete Indiana's furious rally and tie the score at 104 with three minutes to play.

Sabonis' spin move and score on Daniel Theis pushed the Pacers in front 107-104, but the struggling Celtics proved up to the challenge of recovering.

“We probably needed it,” coach Brad Stevens said. “Go down three and find a way to win is probably a good thing for our team in the long run. That was hard.”

Boston shot 44 percent from the field and did just enough from 3-point range (13 makes) and the foul line (19 of 22 accuracy) to hold off the Pacers, who shot 50 percent.

“We have 18 games left after this,” Stevens said. “It's hard to go to the playoffs. I didn't know (we clinched). We're far from a finished product, but we've got to start ascending soon, so it was important to go through a night like tonight.”

Boston led 30-22 after the first quarter and 59-50 at halftime. It was 94-80

TIP-INS

Boston: Hayward's pregame media availability occurred in an interview room adjacent to the home locker room. He and his teammates learned Tuesday morning about the NBA's closure of locker rooms to all nonessential personnel in response to the COVID-19 crisis.

Hayward said the Celtics' health emphasis otherwise remains unchanged.

“The same thing we've been talking about for a month now: just wash your hands and be careful about autographs and that type of stuff,” Hayward said. “I just go with the flow. It certainly is concerning. I read an article that said Avon schools are closed for two weeks, right next to where I grew up. It's pretty crazy that they're doing all this, but it's certainly warranted to try to keep people safe.”

Indiana: Before the game, Holiday praised the Pacers' seventh-ranked defense for the team's 8-2 resurrection since last month's six-game losing streak.

“Defensively, we've been very, very good,” Holiday said. “High energy. Guys have been helping one another. We're not healthy, but I think we're going to be just fine if we play the way we have been.”

SPARTANS

From page B1

He had hit six home runs in our first 12 games,” he added. “Kade Vander Molen is getting healthy and showing what he can do and swinging the bat real well. He has struggled on defense (at second base) and saw that show up today.”

VIRUS

From page B1

people with mild illness recover in about two weeks, while those with more severe illness may take three to six weeks to recover. In China, where the virus first exploded, more than 80,000 people have been diagnosed and more than 58,000 have so far recovered.

ITALY

Europa League matches for Italian teams have been postponed because of travel restrictions. The governing body of European soccer said the games between Sevilla and Roma in Spain, and Inter Milan and Getafe in Italy “will not take place as scheduled.”

“Further decisions on the two matches will be communicated in due course,” UEFA said.

Italian soccer club Roma had said earlier Wednesday it would not make its trip to Seville because “the plane from Italy was not authorized to land in Spain.” Getafe President Ángel Torres had said his team would not travel to Italy because he did not want to risk his players' health by going to an area struggling to contain the spread of the virus.

The Italian soccer federation ordered Italy's women's team to return home before the end of the Algarve Cup tournament in Portugal fearing it would not be able to get a flight back. On Wednesday, the Portuguese soccer federation canceled the final between Italy and Germany.

Italy had already suspended all sporting events until April 3.

SKIING

Less than 24 hours before the first race, the International Ski Federation canceled the women's Alpine skiing World Cup in Are, Sweden, handing Federica Brignone of Italy the overall title and denying Mikaela Shiffrin a return to racing this season.

Brignone becomes the first Italian women's overall champion in the 53-year history of the World Cup.

Shiffrin, the defending overall champion, had announced earlier Wednesday that she would compete at the event after taking a six-week break from the sport following the death of her father. The absence cost her the lead in the overall standings.

GERMAN SOCCER

Marquette’s Howard hoping to cap career with long NCAA run

By STEVE MEGARGEE
Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — Markus Howard will leave Marquette as one of the most dynamic scorers in Big East history. He has the most career points of any active Division I player and leads the nation in points per game this season.

The one achievement that has eluded the 5-foot-11 senior guard is an NCAA Tournament victory. Howard is seeking one last chance to rectify that.

“It means a lot to win in March,” Howard said. “As a team, it’s something we haven’t accomplished. It’s something personally I haven’t accomplished. We’re definitely working toward making that goal a realization.”

First the Golden Eagles must get into the tournament.

Ranked 18th just three weeks ago, Marquette (18-12) has lost six of its last seven games. Although many

mock brackets still have Marquette in the NCAA field, the Golden Eagles could help their cause by winning their first Big East Tournament game Thursday against No. 16 Seton Hall (21-9) in New York.

“I think we’ve done enough, but at the same time, I still feel there’s a lot more we can do to help solidify ourselves,” Howard said. “I think throughout the season we’ve shown glimpses of a team that can really, really contend down the stretch in March, but I think this time of the year we still have to kind of make ourselves known and kind of have to prove ourselves.”

An extended NCAA Tournament run would mark a fitting finish to an illustrious career.

Howard’s 1,587 career points in Big East games shattered former Syracuse star Lawrence Moten’s 25-year-old conference record. His 28.7 points per game in league play this sea-

son broke the previous Big East record of 27.8, set by Boston College’s Troy Bell in 2002-03.

“He gives me nightmares, that kid,” Providence coach Ed Cooley said.

Howard has a Division I-leading 27.8 points per game this season after scoring 25 points per game last year. His 2,761 career points rank 21st in Division I history.

“He’s done historic things in an historic league,” Marquette coach Steve Wojciechowski said. “That alone in itself would make coaching him fun, but he’s been a world-class kid and he’s been an incredible ambassador not only for our program but for our entire university.”

Howard’s proudest achievement is one he shares with his family.

His brother, Jordan, played at Central Arkansas from 2015-18 and was a Southland Conference player of the year. The Howards’

5,285 combined points are an NCAA record for a brother duo.

“Just to have something where both of our names are in the record books is something I’ll remember for the rest of my life,” Howard said.

Jordan Howard says he isn’t surprised by his younger brother’s accomplishments because of the “relentless pursuit to work” that Markus has always displayed.

“Even in college, we’d FaceTime each other,” Jordan Howard said. “It would be a Friday night, 10:30 or 11 at night, everyone’s out, I’d FaceTime him and I’d be in the gym and he’d be in the gym as well. It would be like, ‘OK, we’re on the same page.’”

Markus Howard said he developed into an elite scorer in part because of all the time he spent playing with his older brothers while growing up in Arizona. His oldest brother, Desmond, works as

a basketball instructor.

“They really worked him,” said Howard’s father, former Indiana running back Chuck Howard. “They challenged him daily. There were many times he’d come in crying and feeling like wasn’t being treated right, but his brothers always worked hard and really challenged him.”

After initially committing to Arizona State, Howard left home and adapted to Milwaukee’s frigid winters.

Howard now says he wouldn’t have wanted to play anywhere else.

“Being out of my comfort zone was, I think, something that needed to happen for me in order for me to grow,” said Howard, who will graduate in May with a major in digital media and minor in advertising.

Howard has spent the last four years showing the Big East just what he’d learned back home.

Rival coaches consider Howard particularly difficult to guard because he can

score in so many different ways. His range extends well beyond the 3-point line. He hits midrange floaters. He drives to the rim with no fear.

“Frankly, I’m not sure he received the national credit that he deserves,” Creighton coach Greg McDermott said. “He’s one of the best scorers to ever play college basketball, in my opinion.”

More acclaim could arrive if Howard were to make an impact in March.

Howard’s 26 points couldn’t prevent Marquette from losing to Murray State in the first round last year. Howard scored 13 points in his only other NCAA Tournament game – a 2017 loss to South Carolina.

Marquette’s second consecutive late-season slide has created skepticism about the Golden Eagles’ postseason prospects, but Howard remains confident.

“I think we have a team that’s really primed to go on a run,” Howard said.

Commissioner Monahan: PGA Tour expects to be in Austin for Match Play

By DOUG FERGUSON
AP Golf Writer

PONTE VEDRA BEACH, Fla. — The next World Golf Championship starts in two weeks in Austin, Texas, and PGA Tour Commissioner Jay Monahan “fully expects” the Dell Match Play to go on as scheduled.

“We’re all in and making certain that we’re able to operate that event,” he said Tuesday.

The popular South by Southwest festival, which last year attracted nearly 300,000 people, already was canceled over concerns about the new coronavirus outbreak.

Austin city officials issued a statement Monday that events with at least 2,500 people are prohibited “unless organizers can assure Austin Public Health that mitigation plans for infectious diseases are in place.”

The tour has submitted plans for the Match Play, which starts March 25 at Austin Country Club for the top 64 players available from the world ranking.

“This thing is so dynamic that you just have to go hour-to-hour, day-to-day,” Monahan said. “But right now, we have every assurance that we’ll be in Austin.”

Monahan says the tour began with a task force on COVID-19, and now that has become what he described as a “business unit” led by its medical director and chief administrative officer. He said they have a “large team” studying the virus and implications to tour business.

Tiger Woods hasn’t played in four weeks, and the Match Play is among possibilities as his only start before he defends his title at the Masters. He also could play, if his back allows, the Valspar Championship next week in the Tampa Bay area.

As for the Match Play, Monahan left open the possibility that it could be played without fans, or with limited attendance.

For most people, the new coronavirus causes only mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia.

The vast majority of people recover from the new virus. In mainland China, where the virus first exploded, more than 80,000 people have been diagnosed and more than 58,000 have so far recovered.

CELEBRATE GOOD TIMES

Tyrrell Hatton was so ecstatic to win the Arnold Palmer Invitational that he wasn’t sure he would recover from celebrating until Wednesday. It was

probably different from the celebrations of Webb Simpson.

When he won The Players Championship two years ago, Simpson recalls a long – and enjoyable – evening of several interviews and stopping by to thank the volunteers. He got a late flight and stopped with his wife at a Wendy’s on his way to the airport. That wasn’t the first time.

He did the same thing after winning the U.S. Open at Olympic Club in 2012.

“I go double cheeseburger, usually,” he said. “But my recovery was probably better on Monday morning than Tyrrell Hatton’s was. But good for him. I’m happy for him. I’ve known him to be a really good player for a long time.”

WEEKEND WITH PERRY

One of the perks of being a PGA of America section champion is a spot in some area PGA Tour events. For Rod Perry, that meant teeing it up at Bay Hill for the Arnold Palmer Invitational. And the best perk of all? Playing all four days.

The divide between club professionals and PGA Tour players is getting wider by the year, so it was extra satisfying for Perry to finish eagle-birdie-bogey on Friday to make the cut on the number. He shot 79 the next day – still two shots better than Brooks Koepka, at least for one round – and closed with a 76 to tie for 69th.

Asked if he played within himself, the 46-year-old Perry laughed and said, “No. I played out of my gourd.”

Perry works at Crane Lakes Golf and Country Club in Port Orange, a small club with a good staff that allows him a little more time to play.

Even so, he said he gives about 400 lessons a year, half as many as he used to give when he worked at a public course up the road in Daytona Beach.

It was the fourth time he has made the cut in 33 starts on the PGA Tour dating to Bay Hill. He made his first cut in 2008 at the Ginn sur Mer Classic, which is no longer on the tour schedule. He tied for 69th and made \$9,154. He tied for 62nd this year and made \$20,274.

“Players have gotten better and better and better since then, and I’m getting older and older and older,” Perry said. “At my level, I have to play very well to make the weekend.”

STEADY MEANS SUCCESS

The active leader for consecutive cuts made was still in college this time a year ago. Collin Morikawa graduated from Cal, turned pro after the NAAs and has cashed a check in all 20 tournaments he has played on

the PGA Tour. That includes a victory in the opposite-field Barracuda Championship.

His official cut streak is 21 because it dates to the Arnold Palmer Invitational from two years ago when he played on an exemption. Morikawa took the lead in this category when Tommy Fleetwood missed the cut at Bay Hill, ending his streak of 33 straight cuts on the PGA Tour dating to Quail Hollow in 2018.

With a tie for ninth at Bay Hill, Morikawa moved up to No. 44 in the world. And because he has only 22 tournaments counting as his divisor, he is close to locking up a spot in the Masters next month.

Scottie Scheffler is in a similar spot. He was the Korn Ferry Tour player of the year and started his rookie season on the PGA Tour at No. 87. Scheffler, who graduated from Texas in four years, tied for 15th at Bay Hill for his seventh finish in the top 20 this season. He is up to No. 47 in the world, has the minimum 40 events as a ranking divisor and faces two big weeks at The Players Championship at Match Play to get into the top 50.

It’s rare for a PGA Tour rookie to get into the Masters without winning.

DIVOTS

The PGA Tour Champions is bringing a new tournament to one of Jacksonville’s best golf clubs in conjunction with one of its best local players. Jim Furyk will be the official host of the Constellation Furyk & Friends, a full field on Oct. 8-10 at Timuquana Country Club, the Donald Ross design which last year hosted the U.S. Women’s Amateur Four-Ball Championship. The purse will be \$2 million. ... Not only has the defending champion never won at TPC Sawgrass, the last defending champion to finish in the top 10 was Adam Scott in 2005. He tied for eighth. Last year’s champion, Rory McIlroy, has finished in the top five in his past seven starts worldwide. ... McIlroy starts his 100th week at No. 1 in the world. Only Tiger Woods (683) and Greg Norman (331) have spent more time at No. 1. ... An international player has won Bay Hill the last five years.

FINAL WORD

“I think that it’s flattering when any entity is looking at what’s happening on the PGA Tour and they see growth, they see momentum, they see a broadening reach to a larger fan base domestically and internationally, and it’s no surprise that someone is coming to try and take a piece of that. That’s the nature of business.” – PGA Tour Commissioner Jay Monahan on the proposed Premier Golf League.

Nebraska boys basketball tournament to be played without fans

By MARGERY A. BECK
Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — As health officials across the country increasingly issue bans on large public gatherings to try to stop the spread of the new coronavirus, Nebraska school officials announced Wednesday that the state boys basketball tournament will be played in a mostly empty arena.

That news came on the heels of reports late Tuesday of two new cases of COVID-19 in Nebraska.

On Wednesday, the Nebraska School Activities Association and state Education Commissioner Matthew Blomstedt announced at a news conference that they had accepted the recommendation of the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department to limit spectators of the tournament to players’ immediate family members. The tournament begins Thursday and will be played at the Pinnacle Bank Arena in Lincoln.

The event normally draws thousands of people from around the state.

“It’s about public health,” Bloomstedt said. “I believe this is absolutely the right call.”

Officials will likely define immediate family members as those who live in the same household as a player, NSAA Executive Director Jay Bellar said. Tournament officials were still working out the logistics of playing a state tournament without fans, Bellar said. Officials hope to be able to livestream the games.

For most people, the new coronavirus causes only mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia.

Tuesday evening, state health officials announced that a Douglas County woman in her 40s tested positive

for COVID-19. She recently traveled to California and Nevada and is recovering at home. State officials were awaiting case confirmation from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The fifth case is a student at Crofton High School in northeast Nebraska who will be treated at the Nebraska Biocontainment Unit on the University of Nebraska Medical Center campus in Omaha, the state Health and Human Services Department said. The student, who is reported to have an underlying health condition, attended the state girls basketball tournament in Lincoln on March 5.

The Crofton district announced that classes, events and activities would be canceled for the rest of the week to limit exposure.

The vast majority of people recover from the new virus. According to the World Health Organization, people with mild illness recover in about two weeks, while those with more severe illness may take three to six weeks to recover. China, where the virus first exploded, has had more than 81,000 infections and more than 3,000 deaths.

An American who was exposed to the new coronavirus on a Japanese cruise ship and who was being monitored at an Omaha hospital was released from quarantine Tuesday.

The University of Nebraska Medical Center said the patient tested negative for COVID-19 three times. Seven others who were exposed to the virus on the Diamond Princess were released from quarantine in Omaha last week.

Seven other passengers from the ship have tested positive for COVID-19 and remain at the Omaha hospital. One was being treated in the hospital’s biocontainment unit and was in good condition Tuesday. The other six remain in the hospital’s National Quarantine Unit.

Tiger Woods, at age 44, elected to the World Golf Hall of Fame

By DOUG FERGUSON
AP Golf Writer

PONTE VEDRA BEACH, Fla. — Already among the greatest on the golf course, Tiger Woods will join them in the World Golf Hall of Fame.

Woods was elected Wednesday to be part of the 2021 induction class, a decision with as much suspense as a tap-in. Woods shares the PGA Tour record with 82 career victories, and his 15 majors are second only to Jack

Nicklaus. He has 11 other victories in tours around the world, including Europe, Japan, Asia and Australia.

PGA Tour Commissioner Jay Monahan called Woods with the news. He is not at The Players Championship this week because Woods says his back was not quite ready.

“I am both honored and humbled to be inducted into the World Golf Hall of Fame,” Woods said in a statement. “This past year has been such an incred-

ible journey and the support I’ve received from my family, friends and fans has been overwhelming. This achievement is the ultimate recognition to never give up and keep chasing.”

Woods was a lock before he returned from reconstructive knee surgery after winning the 2008 U.S. Open for his 14th major, and before he returned from a fourth back surgery to win his 15th major last year at the Masters.

No other player has won at rate like the 44-year-old

Woods.

The first to win the U.S. Amateur three straight times, Woods already had two victories in seven starts on tour. He set or tied 20 records at the Masters when he won by 12 shots in 1997 at age 21. By the time he turned 30, he already had 46 victories on the PGA Tour and 10 majors.

He remains the only player to hold all four professional majors at the same time.

Off the course, he was a catalyst for unprecedented

growth, and he was largely responsible for television network deals that set prize money soaring.

“Tiger has done more for the game of golf than anyone ever thought possible, and his historic feats on the course are only one aspect of his impact,” Monahan said.

The Hall of Fame selection process was changed last year to lower the age to 45 during the induction year. It had been 50, and it was 40 when the World Golf Hall of Fame began in 1998 in St.

Augustine. Among his peers, Phil Mickelson, Ernie Els and Vijay Singh already are in the Hall of Fame.

A subcommittee of media, Hall of Fame members and golf administrators whittled the ballot to 10 finalists – four male players, four female players and two contributors. The 20-member selection committee – nine from the media, seven administrators and four Hall of Fame members – voted Wednesday, with 75 percent required for election.

Attending ex's wedding enrages couple's nephew

DEAR ABBY: My wife and I have a 45-year-old nephew who married for the first time two years ago. Before that, he was engaged to a woman I'll call Anita for two years. We assumed the reason for their breakup was she wanted children, and he did not. Last year, we attended Anita's wedding, as we are still friendly with her.

Our nephew was, and still is, furious with us for going. He claims "only 5 percent of people attend one's ex's wedding." He says we should have been loyal to him and abstained because Anita was a "vicious, lying, rumormonger."

He still emails and calls us, ranting and raving to the point that we might lose the relationship with him forever. We feel we did nothing wrong and were not obligated to get his permission to attend that wedding. What do you think? — Big Sin In Oregon

DEAR "BIG SIN": I think you were right to attend Anita's wedding, in light of the fact that you are still friendly. You didn't need your nephew's permission. I seriously doubt his breakup with Anita had anything to do with whether she and your nephew disagreed about having children. More likely it had everything to do with the fact that your nephew is stubborn and behaves irrationally.

DEAR ABBY: My wife has no friends of her own and no hobbies. She's miserable most of the time, and happiness with her seems fleeting. I think she needs to see a counselor, but she refuses. In couples counseling, when the counselor pushed her on her issues, she quit.

I realize now that she is able to hide these issues from everyday acquaintances. But we have a 1-year-old daughter, and I'm certain that as she gets older, she'll see these issues as well. What do I do? — Looking Forward In Pennsylvania

DEAR LOOKING: Whether your wife has postpartum depression or longstanding mental health issues I can't guess, but something is not right with her. I think it could benefit you greatly if YOU go back to that counselor, if only to ask for advice on how to handle this situation and provide as healthy an environment for your daughter to grow up in as possible.

DEAR ABBY: I am having issues with one of my good friends. When we hang out one-on-one, she's great. We laugh at just about everything and agree on a lot of different topics. However, when we hang out with other people, it's a different story. It seems as though all attention needs to be on her. It's not something I'm jealous of. It's more an uncomfortable feeling for everyone else. She's almost like a 4-year-old who needs constant attention and all eyes on her.

I enjoy hanging out with her when it's just us because I don't see this side of her, but in groups or even with one other person, it's like it's her world and we are just living in it. We are planning a trip soon, and I feel hesitant about being with her for long periods of time. — Wearing Thin In Washington

DEAR WEARING THIN: I'm puzzled as to why, knowing your friend behaves the way she does, you would be planning a trip with her. Unless it's a road trip — just the two of you — I think it could end the friendship. Considering who she is, the less time you spend in groups larger than two, the better.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Dear Abby



CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Atlantic fish

4 A Muppet

8 Cabinet div.

12 Get a move on

13 Pinocchio, often

14 Brainstorm

15 Andy Capp's quaff

16 White wader

17 Caesar's day

18 Tough glass

20 Dump truck fillers

22 Type of overalls

24 Dolphins org.

25 Veld grazers

28 Take it easy

32 Root vegetable

33 Scribble down

35 Hindu mystic

36 Wife of Geraint

38 Big flap

39 Cleveland NBAer

40— incognita

42 Moor

45 Mdse. bars

47 Dot in the Seine

48 Weightlifter's gear

52 Argues for

56 Moby Dick's foe

57 Maine, from Oregon

59— degree

60 Mezzanine

61 With, to monsieur

62 Literary collection

63 Did Easter eggs

64 Auto gauge

65 Smidgen

DOWN

1 Bloke

2 Slick

3 Venison

4 Panacea

5 Rights movement

6 Knight's armor

7 Bean or Welles

8 Guitarist Bo—

9 Ms. Falco

10 Gaze

11 Woolen caps

19 Diminish

21 Timbuktu's

23 Mexicali locale

25 Writer— Grey

26 Sheik colleague

27 Carbonated water

29 Unglued

30 Culture dish goo

31 VII doubled

32 To date

34 Writer— Morrison

37 Clobbered

41 Tarzan pal

43 Small purse

44 That woman

46 Turf grabber

48 Smooth-pated

49 Nautical greeting

50 Throw a tantrum

51 Fluid rock

53 Tiny insect

54 Still-active volcano

55 Trawler's haul

58 Dry, as wine

Answer to Previous Puzzle

B	I	N	S	P	A	Y	O	Y	O
R	T	E	N	U	M	B	A	G	O
A	C	E	N	Y	A	C	L	U	E
T	H	R	O	A	T	S	P	H	E
V	O	T	E	S	W	K	S	E	T
O	P	U	S	W	O	R	S	E	N
W	E	B	W	H	E	N	K	E	N
C	A	C	H	E	S	J	A	S	O
H	A	M	G	O	T				
S	A	L	A	M	I	E	L	O	P
A	B	U	T	S	H	O	T	O	R
G	E	N	T	I	D	E	K	I	T
E	D	G	Y	M	E	D	Y	E	A

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12				13					14			
15				16					17			
18				19			20		21			
			22		23		24					
	25	26					27		28		29	30
32						33		34		35		
36			37			38					39	
40				41		42		43	44			
			45		46		47					
48	49	50				51		52		53	54	55
56					57		58			59		
60					61					62		
63					64					65		

SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

	8	9	4	6				
7	2			9			6	
				1	2			9
	1					4		
3		2		4		8		5
		4					1	
2			5	3				
	3			7			9	1
				8	1	2	3	

How to play: Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9.

PREVIOUS SOLUTION

4	2	3	5	8	6	7	9	1
1	9	5	2	7	4	3	6	8
8	7	6	9	1	3	2	4	5
2	1	7	3	4	9	8	5	6
6	3	9	8	5	1	4	7	2
5	4	8	7	6	2	9	1	3
9	6	1	4	2	8	5	3	7
3	5	2	1	9	7	6	8	4
7	8	4	6	3	5	1	2	9

JUMBLE

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

HATSS

JOEYN

GHNETL

CURHOC

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THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

What are you going to do with it now?

You were very brave!

They only get used once.

DISPOSABLE HYPODERMIC NEEDLES GET THROWN AWAY AFTER A SINGLE USE BECAUSE ---

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: EXERT SKIMP HOTTER ANYWAY Answer: With so many horses being used to get around, the Old West town had a — "MANE" STREET

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane

Another logical explanation from little Billy for his daddy's absence.

BETLE BAILEY

BETLE GIVES IT HIS ALL AND THEN SOME

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

WHO ELSE GOOFS OFF 110%?

BLONDIE

I'D LIKE YOU TO CATER MY BIRTHDAY PARTY, BUT I HAVE TO WARN YOU, I'M PRETTY GOOD AT NEGOTIATING EXPENSES

FOR EXAMPLE, TO CUT COSTS, I CAN PROVIDE MY OWN PARTY FAVORS AND FOOD

IT SOUNDS LIKE ALL I NEED TO PROVIDE IS THE CAKE!

WE'RE GETTING THERE, BUT HOW MUCH IF I BRING MY OWN CANDLES?

HI & LOIS

THE SUN IS SHINING ON THE TV.

WE CAN'T SEE ANYTHING.

THEN TURN IT OFF.

SUNBEAM WANTED US TO PLAY OUTSIDE.

BC

I'VE COME UP WITH A WAY TO PROFIT FROM OUR POTHOLE SITUATION.

CANYON TOURS

WIZARD OF ID

SQUAWK

YOUR MOTHER COMIN' OVER FOR DINNER TONIGHT?

HOW'D YOU GUESS?

DILBERT

THE ONLY REASON I TOOK A JOB MANAGING CLOUD DATA IS SO I COULD LAUGH AT PEOPLE'S PRIVATE INFORMATION.

THEN I DISCOVERED A ROBUST MARKET FOR SELLING THAT KIND OF STUFF, SO IT'S A TWO-FOR.

WE NEED TO TALK.

SURE. JUST EMAIL YOUR THOUGHTS TO A FRIEND, AND I'LL PROBABLY READ THEM.

GARFIELD

CLOONK

IT'S NOT TIME TO EAT YET!

IT'S ALWAYS TIME TO EAT!

FORT KNOX

YOU WROTE UP THIRTY PEOPLE IN THREE PAYS.

IS THAT GOOD FOR A HALL MONITOR, MISS HAVISHAM?

WELL, MOST WRITE UP THREE PER WEEK.

SHOULD I WRITE UP FEWER KIDS?

NOT AT ALL.

THEN WHAT SHOULD I DO?

GO EASY ON THE TEACHERS AND JANITORS.

PICKLES

OKAY, YOU HOLD THAT END OF THE ROPE AND I'LL PULL ON THIS END.

OKAY.

READY? ONE... TWO... THREE... PULL!!

HI, MOM AND DAD. OOPS! ARE YOU GUYS PLAYING TWISTER OR SOMETHING?

God knows the moment when each man is to die

From the writings of the Rev. Billy Graham

Q: Why do Christians use scare tactics to frighten people into belief in God? — D.S.

A: Life is like a shadow, like a fleeting cloud moving across the face of the sun. King David said, "We are aliens and pilgrims ... as were all of our fathers; our days on earth are as a shadow" (1 Chronicles 29:15). The world is not a permanent home for anyone; it is only a temporary place to dwell physically. The Bible tells us that the days of mankind are numbered.

When English patriot Sir William Russell went to the scaffold in 1683, he took his watch out of his pocket and handed it to the physician who attended him in his death. "Would you kind-

ly take my timepiece?" he asked. "I have no use for it. I am now dealing with eternity."

Time slips away for everyone. Long ago, a friend went for a ride one day, never dreaming it would be his last ride on earth. He swerved to avoid hitting a car, ran into another car, and was thrown from his vehicle and killed. The news reports such instances daily; stories of death coming suddenly to those who had no idea that they were living their last moments on earth.

It is reasonable — even responsible — to ask how people would live if they knew it was their last day on earth, for one day it will be!

The Bible teaches that God knows the exact moment when each man is to die (Job 14:5). There are appointed bounds beyond which we cannot pass. When a person is prepared to die, he or she is also prepared to live. The primary goal in life, then, should be to prepare for death. Everything else is secondary.

CELEBRITY CIPHER

by Luis Campos

Celebrity Cipher cryptograms are created from quotations by famous people, past and present. Each letter in the cipher stands for another.

"JDHG GT EXE WRVXDKVE UH IV
ZHHE UH MVHMRV, UH XRBXT O IV
NHKVOU XKE OUDXWZNUJHDBXDE."
— RCLV IDTXK

Previous Solution: "Hearing people clapping ... it's like bungee cord jumping — it's a rush; you just want to do it again." — Jason Aldean

TODAY'S CLUE: X s i e n b e 7

In Pakistan, criticism grows dangerous as dissent stifled

By **KATHY GANNON**

Associated Press

ISLAMABAD — Being a dissident – or even raising a critical voice – in Pakistan is growing more dangerous, regardless of whether the target is political parties, the judiciary or the powerful military and security agencies.

Intimidation of dissidents has increased on multiple fronts, rights workers and journalists say. A number of rights activists have been arrested and charged with sedition. Protesters have been jailed, including a member of parliament. Newspapers and journalists have faced violence, harassment and warnings from security officials not to cover anything that might show the military in a harsh light.

Rights groups say the civilian government of Prime Minister Imran Khan, elected in 2018, has failed to protect freedom of speech, imposing legislation to restrict online media, even dictating who can appear on television talk shows, while at the same time ceding authority for curbing freedom of speech to the powerful military.

“In recent years, the space for dissent in Pakistan has shrunk to the point of suffocation,” warned Omar Warriach, Amnesty International’s Deputy South Asia director.

“The Pakistani military has demonstrated that it can still call the shots without directly being in power. ... Taking part in a peaceful protest can now lead to arrest and charges of sedition. Many activists have been forced into exile, fearing for their safety. What was once a lively media landscape has narrowed to exclude critical voices,” he said.

Pakistan’s government has denied allegations it’s stifling free speech. It said it was simply cutting spending when it recently pulled all its advertising from two prominent media houses, Dawn and Jang, that frequently criticize the military’s involvement in civilian affairs. Khan’s government has also criticized the previous

administration for using public money on advertising to promote itself.

Government advertising is one of the leading sources of revenue for newspapers and media houses in Pakistan and is often used to squeeze critical media.

In a March 2 statement, Steven Butler, the Asia program director for the Committee to Protect Journalists, said the government was using advertising “as a cudgel to punish and reward news outlets based on their editorial stance in this way,” and demanded the practice stop.

Butler was denied entry into Pakistan last year despite holding a valid visa. The government has remained silent on the move, but Pakistani officials say that particular decision was taken without the prime minister’s knowledge. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to the media.

Khan was elected in July 2018, amid widespread criticism from international rights groups and political opponents that the country’s powerful military and intelligence aided his campaign. The military was widely accused of intimidating the media and campaigning against Khan’s strongest opponent, the Pakistan Muslim League, whose leader Nawaz Sharif had fallen out with the army after openly accusing it of supporting militants.

At a recent meeting with international journalists, Khan’s adviser on communication, Firdous Ashiq Awan justified action against those who would attack the military, even charging them with sedition, saying the country’s military was sacrosanct according to the constitution.

One journalist, Aziz Memon, disappeared this month on the way to his work at a small newspaper in Pakistan’s southern Sindh province. He was found dead just hours later. A few months earlier, Memon tweeted that he had been threatened by local police and

a prominent political party over his reporting.

The Brussels-based International Federation of Journalists this week called for the arrest of Memon’s killers and strongly criticized a police report that said he died of “natural causes.” An autopsy report later listed his death as strangulation.

“The post-mortem report proves beyond a doubt that Aziz was brutally murdered,” the federation statement said. “We reiterate our demand that the authorities take urgent action to arrest the killers and those who ordered his killing.”

In other cases, intelligence agencies have reportedly forced newspaper sellers into not delivering papers to certain areas and warned television anchors against interviewing certain politicians.

The military’s public relations wing, known as the Inter-Services Public Relations, has repeatedly denied interfering in television programming or disrupting newspaper distribution, although it has justified muzzling news of a dissident ethnic Pashtun movement called the Pashtun Tahafuz (Protection) Movement, or PTM, claiming it impacts national security, without explaining exactly how.

Authorities have often targeted the PTM, which has accused the army of using the decades-long war on terror to profile, intimidate, harass and arrest ethnic Pashtuns, who dominate Pakistan’s northwestern regions bordering Afghanistan.

In late January, a protest of barely 100 people – small by Pakistani standards – took place outside the National Press Club in the capital Islamabad to protest the arrest of a young PTM leader. The protesters had begun to disperse when police arrived, grabbing protesters and throwing them into waiting trucks.

Among the men and women rounded up was Mohsin Dawar, a member of parliament from Pakistan’s North Waziristan border region. “I said I would go with them.

I wasn’t resisting, but still they grabbed me, kicked me and punched me,” he said in an interview following his release. In all, 29 people were arrested, all of them ordered released in early February by the Islamabad High Court, which reprimanded police for charging many of them with sedition, without reason.

Rights groups have also criticized the liberal use of Pakistan’s sedition and anti-terrorism act.

Gulalai Ismail, a rights activist, was charged under the anti-terrorism act after she criticized army actions in the border regions, including a report that complained of military harassment of women and girls, a charge the army has denied.

Ismail has fled to the United States, but her elderly parents continue to be harassed. Her father was jailed for two weeks and her mother, Uzlifat Ismail, was added to a list of individuals unable to leave Pakistan on charges of hiding her daughter.

Ismail’s father, professor Mohammad Ismail, said intelligence agents and police have raided his home in Islamabad six times without a court order. His domestic employees have been harassed and he appears regularly in court fighting charges of anti-state activities related to his support for his daughter.

Harris Khalique, head of the independent Human Rights Commission of Pakistan, said that while previous civilian governments have at times stood up to the military to protect rights, the current prime minister has failed to do so.

“The current political government is more responsible for what is happening in terms of freedom of speech, freedom of expression, freedom of association and assembly than any one particular institution, whether it be the military or the bureaucracy,” said Khalique. “At the at the end of the day they got elected to run this country, if they are ceding their space, they are equally responsible, if not more.”

Facing recession, Europe grasps for ways to limit damage

By **DAVID MCHUGH**

Associated Press

FRANKFURT, Germany — Suddenly staring recession in the face, European leaders are lining up an array of tax breaks, financial support for companies and likely central bank measures in the hope of preventing the coronavirus outbreak from dealing long-term damage to the economy.

Expectations have grown that European Central Bank officials will announce more monetary stimulus when they meet Thursday, after the Bank of England acted Wednesday and the U.S. Federal Reserve last week.

The European Commission plans to set up a 25 billion-euro (\$28 billion) investment fund to support the health care system, businesses and labor market measures. The Italian and British governments are offering separate packages of at least the same size.

Yet any such actions will likely be more damage limitation than cure.

Monetary stimulus and government spending can spur demand for goods. But the coronavirus deals a shock from the supply side by closing businesses and making people stay home, highlighted by Italy’s dramatic decision this week to limit travel and public gatherings across the country. Lower interest rates or tax cuts cannot solve that.

Meanwhile, action to help the 19 countries that use the euro currency faces constraints from the lack of a large central treasury, a hurdle other large economies like the U.S. and China do not face.

“The world is facing a medical emergency that monetary and fiscal policy cannot fix,” said Holger Schmieding, chief economist at Berenberg

private bank.

The best policymakers can do for the economy is to prevent the virus from dealing prolonged damage even after the outbreak ends, to keep small- and medium-sized companies that provide most of the jobs in the economy from going out of business due to a short-term issue beyond their control.

Marco Tronchetti Provera, CEO of Italian tire maker Pirelli, said that decisive action on a large scale was needed: “Very quickly, we need to be ready to make a large plan of investments also at the European level in order to recover.

“It is a war that can be very short, with a contained number of victims. It is a very quick war if we handle it properly.”

One employee at Pirelli’s main Italian production plant near Turin tested positive for the virus, requiring the company to reduce production due to sanitation work as well as measures to put more space between worker. Tronchetti Provera said Pirelli had learned from its experience coping with the outbreak in China, where it has three plants, and is still able to ship tires from Italy, which accounts for 6-7 percent of global production.

Besides manufacturers, among the most affected companies are those involved in travel. The number of people going through European airports is expected to fall by 187 million this year, hurting hotels, restaurants, cabdrivers and airlines, among others. Lufthansa is cutting up to half of its flights from April. Ryanair suspended all flights to and from Italy. Trade fairs have been canceled and football matches are taking place in empty stadiums.

The investment fund an-

nounced Tuesday by European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen draws from the existing EU budget and amounts to only some 0.1 percent of the annual \$20.7 trillion EU economy.

Von der Leyen said national leaders including German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President Emmanuel Macron agreed during a video conference Tuesday to “use all the tools at our disposal so that the European economy weathers this storm.” That includes being flexible in EU rules limiting debt and coming up with clear guidelines on permissible state aid to companies.

At the national level, Italy, which has been hit hardest by far by the virus outbreak, is earmarking 25 billion euros to confront the crisis. It will support health services, ensure people do not lose jobs due to travel restrictions and support families by, for example, delaying payments on mortgages and taxes.

Britain, no longer a member of the European Union but still an important trade partner, made available \$39 billion in its new budget to cushion the impact of the outbreak. The Bank of England added stimulus by cutting a key interest benchmark to 0.25 percent from 0.75 percent.

Even Germany is softening its opposition to spending more public funds to boost growth. The cabinet has discussed measures including 3.1 billion euros in extra investment spending per year from 2021 to 2024. That is only 0.1 percent of GDP but experts say it could be scaled up.

The government also agreed to make it easier for companies to put workers on shortened hours. The short-time

work program is credited with limiting job losses during the Great Recession in 2009 and with speeding the rebound afterward, since companies kept their workers on and did not need to reassemble a trained factory workforce.

Merkel’s government has for years insisted on balancing the German budget, but the chancellor signaled some flexibility on Wednesday. “We will do what is necessary,” she said. “We’re not going to ask every day what that means for our deficit.”

Analysts say the European Central Bank is likely to agree on more stimulus at its policy meeting Thursday. That can include cutting its deposit rate benchmark deeper below zero, to minus 0.6 percent from minus 0.5 percent, effectively pushing banks to lend more money.

The ECB could raise its current program of bond purchases from \$22 billion a month to as much as \$44 billion a month and focus more on company bonds, in the hope of lowering borrowing costs for the private sector. The central bank could also issue more cheap, long-term credit to banks on the condition the money is loaned to businesses.

Yet all this can only “limit the damage to demand,” said Schmieding. He estimates the eurozone economy could shrink 0.4 percent in the first quarter and 0.5 percent in the second, putting it in recession.

Oliver Rakau, chief German economist at Oxford Economics, said Europe might be only beginning to face the need for new investment and financial aid.

“We continue to think that more will be needed, once the fallout from the current economic shock becomes clearer.”

WHO declares virus crisis a pandemic, urges world to fight

By **JAMEY KEATEN, MARIA CHENG and JOHN LEICESTER**

Associated Press

GENEVA — Expressing alarm both about mounting infections and inadequate government responses, the World Health Organization declared Wednesday that the global coronavirus crisis is now a pandemic but added that it’s not too late for countries to act.

By reversing course and using the charged word “pandemic” that it previously shielded away from, the U.N. health agency sought to shock lethargic countries into pulling out all the stops. “We have called every day for countries to take urgent and aggressive action. We have rung the alarm bell loud and clear,” said Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, the WHO chief.

“All countries can still change the course of this pandemic. If countries detect, test, treat, isolate, trace and mobilize their people in the response,” he said. “We are deeply concerned by the alarming levels of spread and severity and by the alarming levels of inaction.”

The WHO said Iran and Italy are the new front lines of the battle against the virus that started in China.

“They’re suffering but I guarantee you other countries will be in that situation soon,” said Dr. Mike Ryan, the WHO’s emergencies chief.

He added that the agency thought long and hard about labeling the crisis a pandemic – meaning a new virus causing sustained outbreaks in multiple regions of the world.

The risk of employing the term, Ryan said, is “if people use it as an excuse to give up.”

But the likely benefits, are “potentially of galvanizing the world to fight.”

Underscoring the mounting challenge: Italy’s cases soared again, to 12,462 infections and 827 deaths – both numbers second only to China.

Italy weighed imposing even tighter restrictions on daily life and announced billions in financial relief Wednesday to cushion economic shocks from the coronavirus, its latest efforts to adjust to the fast-evolving crisis that silenced the usually bustling heart of the Catholic faith, St. Peter’s Square.

In Iran, by far the hardest-hit country in the Middle East, the senior vice president and two other Cabinet ministers were reported to have been diagnosed with COVID-19, the illness caused by the virus. Iran reported another jump in deaths, by 62 to 354 – behind only China and Italy.

In Italy, Premier Giuseppe Conte said he would consider requests from Lombardy, Italy’s hardest-hit region, to toughen the already extraordinary anti-virus lockdown that was extended nationwide Tuesday. Lombardy wants to shut down nonessential businesses and reduce public transportation.

These additional measures would be on top of travel and social restrictions that imposed an eerie hush on cities and towns across the country. Police enforced rules that customers stay 3 feet apart and ensured that businesses closed by 6 p.m. Milan shopkeeper Claudia Sabbatini said she favored the stricter measures, adding that rather than risk customers possibly infecting each other in her children’s clothing store, she decided to close it.

“I cannot have people standing at a distance. Children must try on the clothes. We have to know if they will fit,” she said.

But Conte said fighting the outbreak must not come at the expense of civil liberties. His caution suggested that Italy is unlikely to adopt the draconian quarantine measures that helped China push down new infections from thousands per day to

a trickle now and allowed its manufacturers to restart production lines.

China’s new worry is that the coronavirus could re-enter from abroad. Beijing’s city government announced that all overseas visitors will be quarantined for 14 days. Of 24 new cases that China reported Wednesday, five arrived from Italy and one from the United States. China has had over 81,000 virus infections and over 3,000 deaths.

For most, the coronavirus causes only mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough. But for a few, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illnesses, including pneumonia. More than 121,000 people have been infected worldwide and over 4,300 have died.

But the vast majority of people recover. According to the WHO, people with mild illness recover in about two weeks, while those with more severe illness may take three to six weeks to recover.

In the Mideast, the vast majority of the nearly 10,000 cases are in Iran or involve people who traveled there. Iran announced another increase in cases Wednesday to 9,000. Iran’s semi-official Fars news agency said they include Vice President Eshaq Jahangiri, who had not been seen in photos of recent top-level meetings. Fars said Iran’s ministers for cultural heritage, handicrafts and tourism, and for industry, mines and business were also infected.

Cases in Qatar jumped from 24 to 262. Kuwait announced a two-week shutdown of the country.

For the global economy, virus repercussions were profound, with increasing concerns of wealth- and job-wrecking recessions. U.S. stocks sank again in early trading Wednesday, wiping out most of a huge rally from a day earlier as Wall Street continues to reel from worries about the coronavirus.

The Wall Street plunge followed a steep decline by markets across Asia, where governments there and elsewhere have announced billions of dollars in stimulus funds, including packages revealed in Japan on Tuesday and Australia on Wednesday.

Italy’s government announced Wednesday it was earmarking nearly \$28 billion to boost anti-virus efforts and soften economic blows, including delaying tax and mortgage payments by families and businesses.

Britain’s government announced a \$39 billion economic stimulus package and the Bank of England slashed its key interest rate by half a percentage point to 0.25 percent.

Normal life was increasingly being upended.

With police barring access to St. Peter’s Square, emptying it of tens of thousands of people who usually come on Wednesdays for the weekly papal address, Pope Francis instead live-streamed prayers from the privacy of his Vatican library.

In France, the government’s weekly Cabinet meeting was moved to a bigger room so President Emmanuel Macron and his ministers could sit at least more than 3 feet apart.

Athletes who usually thrive on crowds grew increasingly wary of them. Spanish soccer club Getafe said it wouldn’t travel to Italy to play Inter Milan, preferring to forfeit their Europa League match rather than risk infections.

Olympic champion skier Mikaela Shiffrin said she would be limiting contact with fans and fellow competitors, tweeting that “this means no selfies, autographs, hugs, high fives, handshakes or kiss greetings.”

In the U.S., the caseload passed 1,000, and outbreaks on both sides of the country stirred alarm.

ANNOUNCEMENTS	Lost	Lost	General Help	Farm Services	Unfurnished Apartments	Unfurnished Apartments	Cars for Sale	FINANCIAL
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Lots 1, 2, and 3. Construction shall commence no later than June 1, 2020, and shall be completed no later than May 31, 2021. Bids must be submitted to the Wabash County Auditor's office by 3:00 p.m. on March 20, 2020, for opening at the meeting of the Commission on March 23, 2020, at 3:30 p.m., to be held in the Commissioners' Room on the second floor of the Wabash County Courthouse. All bids will be submitted in writing accompanied by a notarized non-collusion affidavit on forms provided by the Auditor's office. A bid by a trust must identify each beneficiary and settlor of the trust. Bids will be evaluated on the amount offered, and the bidder's intent and ability to comply with the covenants, redevelopment plan, and all federal, state and local statutes, ordinances, and regulations, including, but not limited to the City of Wabash Zoning Code. The Commission reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive irregularities in the bidding process, and to accept or reject bid terms.

**WABASH COUNTY REDEVELOPMENT
COMMISSION HSPAXLP 3/12/2020**